

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR  
WOMEN'S ISSUES RECOGNIZES  
FORCE MASTER CHIEF KAREN H.  
O'CONNOR

## HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congresswomen BROWN-WAITE, SOLIS, CAPPS and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 8th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize five outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the United States Navy, we will honor Force Master Chief Karen H. O'Connor, who currently serves at the Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet representing 40,000 enlisted sailors.

Force Master Chief O'Connor has served the Navy in a variety of duty station and capacities such as Command Master Chief in the USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6), completing an accelerated deployment in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in 2002 and then deploying 14 months early in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM in January 2003. During this tour Bonhomme Richard received two Battle "E" awards and two consecutive Edward F. Ney awards for Food Service Excellence.

Force Master Chief O'Connor has repeatedly demonstrated outstanding performance, leadership, and devotion to the U.S. Navy as is evidenced by the numerous personal awards she has received such as the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and various campaign and service awards.

Force Master Chief O'Connor continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the Navy, and it is a honor for each Member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of Force Master Chief O'Connor and all women in the military.

WINNER OF LABOR'S "COMMUNITY  
SERVICES AWARD": BAKERS  
LOCAL 315

## HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Bakers Local 315—recognized with the "Outstanding Community Services Award" by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Chartered on December 12, 1936, Bakers Local 315 is 500 members strong. Deborah Lacey Zuelsdorf has been Secretary-Treasurer for ten years. Under her leadership and that of the Executive Board, the Bakers have been honored for their work with union companies and have received countless outstanding community service awards. The Bakers work with Bimbo USA, Interstate Brands Corporation, Vons In Store Bakeries, and the San Diego Bread Company.

During the holidays, members work an extra shift and then the union bakeries donate what they have prepared directly to the Holiday Food Distribution. These breads and baked goods, made by the caring hands of the Bakers, help make the holidays a little better for union families experiencing lean financial times.

That is why we also honor and recognize Bakers Local 315, for their hard dedication to the community and for earning this year's "Community Services Award" by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

## RECOGNIZING SHELBY COUNTY VETERANS ON MEMORIAL DAY 2005

## HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day all of us should take time to recognize the service of those who've fought and died for this country.

I want to take a moment to recognize the veterans of Shelby County, Tennessee who served our country so well over the past century.

More than 1,500 Shelby County residents gave their lives for this country from World War II to the Iraq War, and we should never forget their sacrifice.

I would like to specifically recognize Mr. Vernon McGarity of Bartlett, Tennessee. Mr. McGarity is a World War II veteran who earned our Nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor.

Mr. McGarity exemplifies the dedication and sacrifice of all of our Shelby County veterans.

It is because they fought that we are free. God Bless America's veterans.

## MEMORIAL DAY

## HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, soon we will all return to our Congressional districts for the Memorial Day weekend. So I'd like to take a moment today to recognize the heroes of wars past and the heroes of our current military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Just two days ago, Fort Carson's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment honored four more of its dead—Sgt. Stephen Saxton, Spec. Ricky Rockholt, Pfc. Joseph Knott, and Pfc. Robert Murray, Jr. Fort Carson has lost 120 soldiers since the war began.

And Colorado lost another son in Baghdad earlier this month. Former Marine and Louisville firefighter Todd James Venette was remembered at a memorial service last weekend. He died after his security company convoy was hit by two cars carrying explosives.

The loved ones of these brave soldiers and others who have died serving in Iraq and Afghanistan must live with their losses every minute of every day. We share their grief and remember this Memorial Day and every day the sacrifices of these young soldiers who have volunteered in service to their country.

These points were well made in today's editorial in the Denver Post, which I am attaching for the benefit of my colleagues.

[From the Denver Post, May 26, 2005]

## RESPECT FOR HEROES IN IRAQ

In recent months, much attention has been drawn to accusations of misconduct in Iraq, and Fort Carson has seen its share of legal proceedings.

But on Tuesday a tearful ceremony reminded us of the sacrifices of so many soldiers who were doing things right.

More than 700 mourners attended a memorial service for four "brave rifles" killed in Iraq, while others stood outside in a thunderstorm to pay their respects. Sgt. Stephen Saxton, 24; Spec. Ricky Rockholt, 29; Pfc. Joseph Knott, 21; and Pfc. Robert Murray Jr., 21. All were members of Fort Carson's 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Comrades and loved ones shared thoughts about the young soldiers. "I thought it was very fitting that it was raining during the service," said Pamela Knott of Yuma, Ariz., whose son was killed in April. "It sounds silly, but at times you think, 'Oh, those are the angels crying, not just for Joseph but for all the lost soldiers.'"

In all, 120 soldiers from Fort Carson units have died since the war began. Since troops returned to Iraq in the winter and spring, eight soldiers have been lost to the 3rd ACR and two from the 43rd Area Support Group.

All told, about a dozen current or former Fort Carson soldiers have been accused of wrongdoing in Iraq. One court-martial has been held, with a conviction for assault against three Iraqi detainees, and others may be coming up.

For now, as Memorial Day approaches, upcoming proceedings are being drowned out by solemn rifle volleys for those who died too young, doing their duty.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

COMMERCE CITY COMMUNITY  
HEALTH SERVICES RECEIVES  
HERO IN HEALTH AWARD

**HON. BOB BEAUPREZ**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of a health care organization in my district, Commerce City Community Health Services.

Earlier this month, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield awarded the 2005 Hero in Health Award to Commerce City Community Health Services (CHS). CHS has provided free and/or reduced cost services to uninsured and underinsured youth in Adams County, Colorado for over 20 years.

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield conceived the Hero in Health Award in 2001 as a way to recognize and reward those organizations that exemplify an authentic commitment to serving underinsured and uninsured individuals. Additionally, the Hero in Health Award heightens awareness for issues of healthcare access and affordability. In 2003, the field of eligible organizations was narrowed to clinics that provide services to the underinsured and uninsured.

CHS is a non-profit, 501(c) 3 organization that provides low-cost, high-quality primary and preventive health care services. CHS was initially funded in 1979 by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation as a demonstration site for the National School Health Project and was one of the first school-based health centers in the country. Colorado Association of School-Based Health Care recognized CHS recently as the oldest, operational school-based center in the state.

CHS has a community-based center and school-based centers. The community-based center is part of the Adams County High School campus. Health care services are provided for children and adolescents, birth to 21 years old. The health care services include physical exams, medical screenings, immunizations, acute care for the diagnosis and treatment for minor illnesses, infections and injuries, management of chronic health conditions, routine lab work, well/sick infant care, nutrition and weight control counseling, and health education.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the fine men and women of Commerce City Community Health Services. It is the best kind of community organization, fulfilling needs in the community others have not and continuously evolving to address changing demands. They serve a tremendous purpose in Adams County and I am very proud to be able to congratulate them for receiving the Hero in Health Award.

IN HONOR OF DR. PETER SMITH

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend and former member of this House, Dr. Peter Smith. Peter represented the State of Vermont in the House between 1989 and 1993. He built a reputation during his time

here as an insightful, effective, and respected member. Peter exemplifies the spirit of respect and comity that is so often missing in current House business.

In 1994, Peter moved to my Central California District to become the founding President of the newly created California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB). CSUMB is a remarkable institution that has been carved out in the heart of the former Fort Ord, the largest military base closure in the US to date. While many of us on the Central Coast have played a part in the genesis and growth of CSUMB, nobody has put a more decisive stamp than Peter Smith on the thriving institution that CSUMB has become. What started in 1994 with 650 students gathered in a cluster of run down Army barracks had blossomed into a top flight University with a growing campus of newly constructed and restored buildings and 3,500 students. That's a record of which to be proud.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1945, Peter received a B.A. from Princeton and, two years later, he earned a M.A. in Teaching from Harvard University. In 1984 he received a Doctorate in Education, also from Harvard University. In 1970, Peter founded the Community College of Vermont, and served as its first president until 1978. In 1980, he served as a Vermont State Senator, and from 1982 until 1986 he served as Vermont's Lieutenant Governor.

Peter has devoted his life to improving the educational process, for the citizens of both Vermont and of the United States, and has received a number of awards for his achievements. One of his greatest awards is the National Council of Community Service and Continuing Education's Man of the Year award, which he received in 1976. In 1978, the University of Vermont College of Education and Social Services gave him their highest award for his contributions to elementary, secondary, and post secondary education in the State of Vermont. The Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education and the Carnegie Corporation of New York awarded him a Mina Shaughnessy Fellowship grant in 1980. The grant allowed him to interview sixty adults across the country for his book about adult learning beyond school, *Your Hidden Credentials*. Last year he published groundbreaking book titled *The Quiet Crisis: How Higher Education is Failing America* where he argues that higher education as a whole is not organized to truly educate its students.

Peter is now leaving CSUMB to take on the reins at UNESCO where he will become the first American to hold the post of Assistant Director General for Education. The UN leadership chose him after a worldwide search of candidates. Peter takes up his post in Paris, France, next month. We are sorry to see Peter and his wonderful wife, Sally, leave the Central Coast. But the Central Coast's loss will be the global community's gain. From his new perch, Peter will use the skill and wisdom that so enriched the CSUMB community and improve the future for millions of world's citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for the whole House when I offer our former colleague our sincerest thanks for his service to date and best wishes for his tasks ahead.

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR  
WOMEN'S ISSUES RECOGNIZES  
MASTER SERGEANT SUSAN M.  
PIASECKI

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congresswomen BROWN-WAITE, SOLIS, CAPPS and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 8th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize five outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the United States Air Force, we will honor Master Sergeant Susan M. Piasecki, who currently is assigned to the 305th Civil Engineer Squadron (CES), McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, as First Sergeant.

Master Sergeant Piasecki has repeatedly demonstrated outstanding performance, leadership, and devotion to the U.S. Air Force as is evidenced by the honors and decorations she has received. In April 2005, she was honored as a nominee for Air Mobility Command's 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year in the First Sergeant Category. Her decorations include the Air Force Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Force Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Force Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

Master Sergeant Piasecki continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the Air Force, and it is an honor for each Member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of Master Sergeant Piasecki and all women in the military.

WINNER OF LABOR'S "COMMUNITY  
SERVICES AWARD"—TEAMSTERS  
LOCAL 36

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Teamsters Local 36—recognized with the "Community Services Award" by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Teamsters Local 36 was chartered in 1946 and was originally founded as a building material and construction local. The charter was changed in 1980 to read Building Materials, Construction, Industrial, Professional and Technical Employees.

In 1981, Teamsters built their own building and moved to their current location on Mercury Street in the heart of Kearny Mesa. This

building is named in honor of their former Secretary-Treasurer, John S. Lyons. This hard-working, dedicated and diverse organization can always be depended upon.

Their members volunteer for every food drive by working at the Margaret Sellers Post Office and routing the food from outlying Post Offices to the Food Bank. Each and every December, the Teamsters show up, complete with holiday cheer, pick up and deliver all the food to make the annual Holiday Food Distribution a success.

They are always present, making a contribution to the people of San Diego and promoting the good name of Labor. That is why we honor and recognize Teamsters Local 36, one of the finest organizations in San Diego and Imperial County, as the recipient of the "Community Services Award"!

RECOGNIZING DEDICATION OF  
WILLIAMSON COUNTY MONU-  
MENT IN FRANKLIN ON MEMO-  
RIAL DAY 2005

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day is one of those occasions where all Americans can come together for a common purpose—to honor and thank those who've sacrificed in order to keep us free.

It is my privilege to recognize the veterans from Williamson County, Tennessee who served our country over the past century. Nearly 165 veterans from Williamson County died defending America during World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Viet Nam War. All of us recognize how fortunate we are for having had men and women like them fighting to preserve our freedom.

On Monday, May 30, 2005, Williamson County will dedicate a monument in Franklin, Tennessee, to honor these men and women. I hope all Tennesseans will take time this Memorial Day to remember those who've sacrificed so much for America. God Bless.

THE LIFE OF EVA "MARR"  
BOWMAN

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on May 7, the Bowman family and Colorado lost a great treasure. Eva "Marr" Bowman died at age 93, a life-long resident of Wray, Colorado.

My sympathies go to her grandson Michael Bowman, who was extremely close to his grandmother. Michael is a tireless advocate of renewable energy and of Colorado's rural communities and is a key proponent of the 25x25 proposal dedicated to producing 25 percent of America's energy needs from our agricultural sector by the year 2025.

Marr Bowman supported Mike in his efforts. She donated \$200,000 to the Wray, Colorado school district to install a wind turbine that will supply all of the school's electricity and 25 percent of the electricity for the town. Her do-

nation has already set an important precedent in Colorado, demonstrating what dedicated communities can do to help rural economic development and maintain farming as a way of life.

I honored Marr Bowman at the Environmental and Clean Energy Inaugural Ball earlier this year for her contributions to Colorado's rural communities and to renewable energy. I noted at the Ball: "Without your generous contribution of seed money for the wind turbine project, further grant money would not be an option. Wray is fortunate to have committed members of the community like you who have the foresight and patience to envision a project and see it through." Even though she won't be in Wray to see the wind turbine operational next month—or to attend her 75th high school reunion—I am glad she knew of our gratitude for her commitment and dedication to her community, to Colorado, and to renewable energy.

Marr Bowman's was a life well lived. She will be missed.

For the benefit of my colleagues, I have attached Mrs. Bowman's obituary from the Denver Post.

FARM WIFE A POWERFUL FORCE

(By Virginia Culver)

Eva "Marr" Bowman was a farm wife who lived all her life on Colorado's plains—but that didn't mean she wasn't up on the latest environmental issues.

Bowman, who died Saturday at age 93, left \$200,000 to the Wray school district as seed money to install a wind turbine that will supply all of the school's electricity and 25 percent of the electricity for the town.

By selling the electricity to the town, the school district will make \$180,000 a year, said Bowman's grandson, Michael Bowman, of Wray.

"We'd hoped she would still be alive to see the wind turbine operational next month, her 75th high school class reunion," he said.

In her letter to the school board about the gift, Eva Bowman said, "There is no greater gift we can give our children than that of a sound education."

Her nephew and others have raised most of the rest of the total—\$1.8 million—for the turbine.

Marr Bowman, as everyone called her, was a fixture in Wray, where she sat at her own table every morning for coffee in the local cafe.

Despite the hard work of cooking, cleaning, raising children and helping with the farm, Marr Bowman was not a complainer.

"In fact, she was the most upbeat person I ever knew," said Michael Bowman.

But, sometimes, she did remark, "Anyone who thought those were the good old days didn't actually live through them."

Marr Bowman and her husband toughed out the Depression, but they and their good friends, Dale and Martha Whomble, had to wait some time before they could buy new cars.

After discussing it one evening, the couples decided on a stopgap measure: They would trade cars, so at least each couple would have a different car.

In addition to her family, Marr Bowman's other great love was bowling, which she did for decades at the Purple Sage Bowling Alley. After it was destroyed in a 1970s tornado, she and her friends had to drive to other towns to bowl.

Eva Peterson was born June 13, 1911, in Holyoke and graduated from Laird High School, east of Wray.

She met Ralph Bowman, a local farm boy, at Olive Lake, a resort area near Wray that

had a dance hall and skating rink. "It was a hotbed of activity in those days," Michael Bowman said.

Eva Peterson and Ralph Bowman married May 16, 1931, and started their life together with gifts of a pig and a cow, which their families had given them. He died in January 2004.

In addition to her grandson, Marr Bowman is survived by two daughters, Jean Brophy of Wray and Jerry Baird of Pasadena, CA; a son, Jack Bowman of Wray; 10 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; her sister, Madge Barber of Burlington; and an "adopted" grandson, Etienne Lagabrielle of France.

BRIGHTON RECEIVES ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AWARD

**HON. BOB BEAUPREZ**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Brighton, Colorado, for recently being named by the Economic Developers' Council of Colorado (EDCC) as the recipient of the Large Community of the Year award for 2004. The EDCC presents their annual achievement awards that recognize outstanding achievement in economic development by honoring individuals, businesses and communities throughout the State of Colorado.

The City of Brighton was honored to receive this award which is presented to a community over 20,000 in population that demonstrates support for economic development through an organized economic development program and strong leadership.

Mr. Speaker, as we look at a few of the many successes the City has been able to accomplish recently, there is no doubt that they are well deserving of this award.

The City provided an incentive package valued at nearly \$8.2 million for a new Adams County campus for County services. This campus will not only retain jobs for Brighton but will also ensure that Brighton remains the County Seat.

Brighton found funding, without any state support, for the roundabouts at the intersection of U.S. 85 and State Highway 7, which is a major highway intersection to downtown Brighton. The City has also been forward thinking in contributions on their part to make the FasTracks public transit program become a reality in Brighton.

In 2004 the City broke ground on a 14-acre entertainment/retail development, the Brighton Pavilions. This project is a unique public/private partnership between the City, the Brighton Urban Renewal Authority, Brighton Economic Development Corporation, Carlson-Parkhi, LLC and RTD. It is the first Transit Oriented Development in the state based on a bus transit park-n-ride, and a public/private endeavor and is a "model" project for the Denver metro area. Further, this partnership helped the City receive the Adams County Economic Development 2004 Regional Partnership Award.

On the issue of water, which is so vital to communities in Colorado, Brighton has made great strides in making water purchases during 2004 and has aligned itself with other regional communities to provide water solutions in and out of its community. The first water augmentation storage lake was completed and filled in 2004.

Mr. Speaker, what's equally important to many Brighton residents is that the City has been able to accomplish all of this while still retaining its small town atmosphere that makes it so attractive by opening six new neighborhood parks last year.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Brighton's Mayor, Jan Pawlowski, and all the citizens of the City for Brighton's recognition as the Large Community of the Year. It is only appropriate that the entire State acknowledge the City's efforts and achievements.

IN HONOR OF KSBW'S THIRD CONSECUTIVE USC ANNENBERG WALTER CRONKITE AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TELEVISION POLITICAL JOURNALISM

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the achievements of a news channel local to my congressional district. KSBW, as part of the Hearst-Argyle Television Inc., received the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Political Journalism for the third consecutive year this past March.

Frequently we hear that quality, unbiased journalism is a thing of the past. However, KSBW and Hearst-Argyle Television Inc. prove the critics wrong. The Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Television Political Journalism is an award that recognizes the importance of good, unbiased political journalism. That some of the best minds in journalism would agree that KSBW and Hearst-Argyle Television Inc. deserve this award 3 years in a row is a testament to this station's high quality and merit.

This continued commitment to excellence in journalism serves as a model for all news organizations. I would also like to commend Mr. Joe Heston, President and General Manager of KSBW, for his management, vision, and interest in the community. Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring KSBW and Hearst Argyle Television Inc.'s achievements and wish them continued success.

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES RECOGNIZES SERGEANT MAJOR RAMONA D. COOK

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congresswomen BROWN-WAITE, SOLIS, CAPPS and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 8th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The Purpose of this event is to honor our Nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today we have the opportunity to recognize five outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the United States Marine Corps, we will honor Sergeant Major Ramona D. Cook who was deployed to Kuwait in February 2003, to join her unit, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 (Heavy Haulers), in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Heavy Haulers remained there until September 29, 2003.

On October 15, 2004 SgtMaj Cook and members of the Heavy Haulers again deployed in support of the war on terrorism, this time to Bagram, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

SgtMaj Cook has repeatedly demonstrated outstanding performance, leadership, and devotion to the U.S. Marine Corps, as is evidenced by the awards she has received, which include two Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and four Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

SgtMaj Cook continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the U.S. Marine Corps, and it is an honor for each Member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of SgtMaj Cook and all women in the military.

VIEJAS BANK OF KUMEYAAY INDIANS RECEIVES LABOR'S SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AWARD

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians for receiving the "Spirit of Cooperation Award" by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

The Viejas Band, one of the remaining 12 bands of the Kumeyaay Indian Nation, has approximately 289 members living on the 1,600 acre reservation in the Viejas Valley, east of Alpine.

The Viejas Band is recognized as a sovereign government by the United States, with which it maintains a government-to-government relationship. Only a few years ago, Viejas Reservation unemployment was as high as 80 percent. Today, as a result of revenues from tribal government gaming and other business enterprises, every Viejas tribal member has a job and no tribal members are on welfare. The band has built new homes, improved older residences, expanded the Tribal Government Center, and has constructed a community park, fire station, and a senior citizen center.

In addition, the band has embarked on a multi-million dollar series of environmental projects to restore the reservation land, watershed, streams and wetlands. Gaming has created approximately 12,000 jobs, primarily for non-Indian residents of the San Diego Region.

In 2001, the estimated payroll for gaming Tribes was more than \$237 million, and employer-paid Federal and State payroll taxes

are estimated to have been over \$30 million. Viejas is a proud union employer and workers of the casino are part of Communication Workers of America Local 9400. Viejas is leading the way in bringing together communities and setting a great example of conducting business.

Congratulations to Viejas on receiving Labor's 2005 "Spirit of Cooperation Award."

RECOGNIZING MONTGOMERY COUNTY, TENNESSEE MEMORIAL DAY 2005

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege today for me to recognize and thank our Montgomery County, Tennessee veterans.

Our community has not forgotten the sacrifices made by our Tennessee veterans, and so on Monday, May 30, 2005, Montgomery County will dedicate a monument in Clarks-ville, Tennessee to honor these veterans.

These are the men and women who fought and died for our freedoms, and we cannot thank them enough for their sacrifices.

Generations of veterans live in Montgomery County, and this great community will forever be thankful to them. As home to Fort Campbell, few understand better the work our Nation's military does day in and day out to defend America. God Bless.

STATEMENT ON PUEBLO CHEMICAL DEPOT

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am glad that the Pueblo Chieftain recognized in a May 18 editorial the attention Representative JOHN SALAZAR has focused on the demilitarization project at the Pueblo Chemical Depot, a former chemical weapons site located in southeastern Colorado, since he was sworn into office in January.

Representative SALAZAR is aware, as I am as a member of the Colorado delegation and of the Armed Services Committee in the House, that a continued flow of funds to the demilitarization project is critical. That's why I was pleased that the Defense Authorization bill reported out of the Armed Services Committee last week and voted on by the House yesterday includes language directing the Secretary of the Army to continue to implement fully the neutralization technology at Pueblo. Coloradans were alarmed last year when the demilitarization project was put on hold, so they want to see that the Defense Department is committed to using the neutralization technology to destroy the 2,600 tons of mustard agent stored at Pueblo—not transporting the weapons to a different site for destruction.

I also want to call attention to language in the bill that would transfer program responsibility from the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics to the Secretary of the Army. I understand that objection to this transfer in the past was due to

the preference of the Program Manager for Chemical Destruction under the Department of the Army for baseline incineration. Now that the Defense Department is committed to the neutralization approach, and given the numerous GAO reports and testimony to Congress stating that effective management of the chemical demilitarization program has been hindered by the complexity of its management structure, it appears to make sense to pursue the transfer. Still, I've asked Chairman HUNTER to follow this move closely to ensure that this proposed change in oversight of the project doesn't change the path forward for the development of the neutralization technology.

I'm glad that both Democratic and Republican members of the Colorado delegation understand the importance of getting the job done right at Pueblo. I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure this happens.

For the benefit of my colleagues, I've attached a May 18 editorial from the Pueblo Chieftain.

[From the Pueblo Chieftain, May 18, 2005]

#### TRUST, BUT VERIFY

There appears to be bureaucratic wrangling over control of the chemical weapons destruction program at Pueblo Chemical Depot, and Representative John Salazar is pledging to keep a close eye on developments.

Representative Salazar reports that the Army approached him directly with information that the Pentagon wants the job under the direct oversight of the Army, rather than the Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternative program, or ACWA. ACWA has been the agency favored by local critics of the Army, which originally planned to build an incinerator to demilitarize the weapons.

Representative Salazar, taking note of recent developments in Congress to get the work back on track after numerous delays, said the Army's track record warrants close monitoring to see that nothing else gets derailed. It was this long series of delays which earlier this month prompted Congress to approve provisions in a supplemental budget bill that included \$327 million and explicit language requiring the Pentagon to destroy the weapons at Pueblo and the Blue Grass Chemical Depot in Kentucky. This week the Senate Armed Services Committee added \$20 million.

The demilitarization provision was co-sponsored by Colorado's two senators, Wayne Allard and Ken Salazar, and Representative Salazar.

Ross Vincent, a member of the local Citizens Advisory Commission and a supporter of ACWA, is wary of having the Army take direct control of the project. The Army may realize it needs to mend fences, because Representative Salazar made a point of noting that the Army volunteered the information that the Pentagon now wants that military branch to be in direct control.

Representative Salazar has sized up the situation quickly since his House induction in January. We are pleased that has given the chemical depot his considerable attention.

We also would encourage the congressional delegation to press the Pentagon to do all of the demilitarization work here. There has been some discussion of perhaps shipping explosives and the neutralized mustard agent known as "hydrolysat" off site for final destruction at other plants.

It's estimated that such transfers would mean the loss of about 200 jobs that otherwise would be created at Pueblo Chemical Depot. But at what cost?

The Pentagon is looking at one cost factor, though. Last week officials said they may

use some recycled parts from a similar system that has finished its work at Aberdeen Proving Grounds in Maryland. If that could be a net savings to taxpayers, we're all for it.

Delays and mismanagement have skyrocketed the cost of destroying this Nation's chemical weapons. The sooner the job gets done, the better.

#### CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES RECOGNIZES DRILL SERGEANT JENNIFER R. FOWLER

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congresswomen BROWN-WAITE, SOLIS, CAPPS and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 8th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The purpose of this event is to honor our nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today, we have the opportunity to recognize five outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the United States Army, we will honor Drill Sergeant Jennifer R. Fowler. Drill Sergeant Fowler has served in the Army in a variety of duty stations and capacities. Her deployments include: Operation Distant Haven-Suriname, and Operation Safe Haven Panama.

Drill Sergeant Fowler's awards and decorations include the joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Army Overseas Service Ribbon.

Drill Sergeant Fowler has repeatedly demonstrated outstanding performance, leadership, and devotion to the U.S. Army as is evidenced by the fact that she was recently selected as the 2004 RC TRADOC Drill Sergeant of the Year.

Drill Sergeant Fowler continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the Army, and it is an honor for each Member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of Drill Sergeant Fowler and all women in the military.

#### CROSBY MILNE: WINNER OF LABOR'S "OUTSTANDING DEDICATION AWARD"

#### HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I acknowledge a great friend of labor, Crosby Milne—

recognized with the "Outstanding Dedication Award" by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Crosby Milne's early upbringing was unfortunately marred by frequent moves and arbitrary acts of discrimination. As a result, Crosby became fundamentally opposed to any forms of discrimination. He used those early childhood experiences as a barometer to make good choices throughout life and guide his actions. Crosby served five years in the United States Navy, and in those years, he played many roles. He spent 29 years working his way up to become a top manager. Throughout his work he discovered that following a set of values is the best way to manage. He has used this concept ever since. In 1974, he began work as a management consultant for commercial firms and for dozens of nonprofit organizations, including the United Farm Workers and Cesar Chavez.

For the past several years, Crosby has been a volunteer for the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, generously dedicating his time and ideas for the betterment of workers throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties. He has facilitated various staff retreats and meetings as well as sat on various committees. He provides wonderful insight and assessments. Crosby was also very instrumental in forming the Center on Policy Initiatives. Crosby's opinion is highly revered, as he speaks from life experience.

We congratulate Crosby for receiving this year's "Outstanding Dedication Award" from the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council.

#### IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK COUNTY LAWYERS ASSOCIATION'S HOME OF LAW

#### HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA), and the 75th anniversary of its building, located at 14 Vesey Street in New York City. This location, in the heart of both my District and Lower Manhattan, has been the home of NYCLA and its many charitable and educational programs, all of which further its primary purpose of serving the public interest.

Tonight's celebration will feature many of New York City's most esteemed scholars. They include the Hon. Judith Kaye, Chief Judge of the State of New York, Hon. John M. Walker Jr., Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, Michael Cardozo, Corporation Counsel for the City of New York, and Paul Goldberger, architecture critic for The New Yorker.

The Home of Law was designed by legendary American architect Cass Gilbert, designer of the Woolworth and U.S. Supreme Court Buildings, and consulting architect for the George Washington Bridge. The groundbreaking for the Home of Law took place in 1929 and construction was completed just five and a half months later, on May 26, 1930, exactly 75 years ago today. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was attended by such notable figures as then Court of Appeals Chief

Judge Benjamin N. Cardozo, Judge Samuel Seabury, John W. Davis, and City Bar President Charles C. Burlingham. Then-NYCLA President William Nelson Cromwell chose 14 Vesey Street for the Home of Law because, with St. Paul's Chapel across the street, no building would ever block the view.

NYCLA, in its 97-year history, has proven to be a visionary and inclusive organization, pioneering some of the most far-reaching and tangible reforms in American jurisprudence and playing an active role in legal developments and public policy. NYCLA also bears the mark of distinction of being the first major bar association in the United States that admitted members without regard to race, ethnicity, religion or gender. NYCLA and its Home of Law serve New York with distinction, and I am pleased to honor them today on the 75th anniversary of their historic building.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LAFAYETTE VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building in honor of the contributions and sacrifices of past, present, and future Contra Costa County veterans for the freedoms we enjoy in our personal lives and for the security we value as a nation.

When we look around at our homes, neighborhoods, and institutions like our churches and schools, we see evidence of the valor and sacrifice of our veterans. We feel safe and protected in the ordinary and extraordinary activities of our daily lives because our veterans have made us safe. We are free to believe and speak what is in our hearts because veterans have fought for our freedoms to do that.

The Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building honors the contributions of veterans today, on Memorial Day, and every day to come. It is a living memorial, created in the heart of this vibrant community at the center of community life. It is intended to serve veterans and their families throughout Contra Costa County, and it is designed to accommodate the broadest possible range of needs of veterans as well as those of the community.

The Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building is also remarkable for being the collaborative achievement of Lafayette War Veterans, Inc., the City of Lafayette, the City of Walnut Creek, and Contra Costa County. Over a number of years, these project partners have come together to create this magnificent tribute to those who serve. They have blessed the community with an outstanding example of joint leadership and cooperative decision-making, as well as with the building itself.

Mr. Speaker, the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building stands as a fitting monument to our veterans whom we honor on Memorial Day and in our hearts all year long. It takes its part in our community as a reminder of the glories of past, present, and future veterans and of the work of smart, persevering, and dedicated community leaders who have brought their dreams to reality.

CONGRESSIONAL CAUCUS FOR WOMEN'S ISSUES RECOGNIZES SENIOR CHIEF JENSEN

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Congresswomen BROWN-WAITE, SOLIS, CAPPS and the entire Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the 8th Annual Women in the Military Wreath Laying Ceremony hosted by the Caucus at Arlington National Cemetery. The Purpose of this event is to honor our nation's servicewomen and female veterans for their courage and achievements, and to remember women who have died in service to the United States.

Today we have the opportunity to recognize five outstanding female servicewomen, one selected from each branch of the military. These women serve their respective branches with honor, dignity, and courage. These highly decorated leaders chose to defend our freedom and embody the spirit of those that served before them.

From the United States Coast Guard Reserves, we will honor Senior Chief Jensen, who currently has an Extended Active duty contract with the Coast Guard and is assigned to Coast Guard Headquarters, Office of Command and Control Architecture.

Senior Chief Jensen enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserves on July 11, 1990 as a Third Class Yeoman. Her first unit was Coast Guard Reserve Unit Pensacola, Florida, where she served for five years. In November of 1995, then a Second Class Petty Officer, she reported to the Gulf Strike Team in Mobile, AL. During this period she was sent on special assignment for 6 months to the National Drug Intelligence Center, Johnstown, PA where she was one of only five enlisted members to ever serve. Her second special assignment came when she was requested for support of the joint agency drug operation, "Operation Gulf Shield" in South Texas for a period of seven months.

Senior Chief Jensen has repeatedly demonstrated outstanding performance, leadership, and devotion to the U.S. Coast Guard, as is evidenced by the awards she has received, which include a Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, the Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon with Operational distinguishing device, both Active Duty and Reserve Good Conduct Medals, the 911 Ribbon, Reserve Forces Medal, Rifle and Pistol Shot Ribbons at the Marksman level.

Senior Chief Jensen continues to distinguish herself as an invaluable leader in the US Marine Corps, and it is an honor for each Member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues to recognize the courage and commitment of Senior Chief Jensen and all women in the military.

JEF L. EATCHEL: WINNER OF LABOR'S "SOLIDARITY AWARD"

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I acknowledge a great friend of labor, Jef L. Eatchel—recognized with the "Solidarity Award" by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Jef L. Eatchel has served as Secretary-Treasurer and Chief Executive Officer for UNITE HERE, Local 30 (formerly, Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 30) of San Diego since he was first elected in 1985. Jef began his career at Local 30 as a cook at La Costa Resort & Spa, where he was appointed Shop Steward by International Vice-President, Herbert "Pinky" Schiffman. He was appointed as Business Representative at Local 30 in 1982. After representing the employees for three years, he was elected Secretary-Treasurer in 1985. He continues to serve as its Chief Executive Officer. Jef does a great deal of work beyond UNITE HERE Local 30. He serves as the Treasurer to the California Culinary Alliance; he was elected a voting director of the International Foundation of Employee Benefits for the West Coast and has served as a Trustee and member of the Educational Program Committee. He also serves on the Executive Committee for the Council of Institutional Investors and is National Vice President for District 9 for the UNITE HERE International.

As chairman of the San Diego Health & Pension Plan, he founded the Labor Union 401K in 1997 which now has forty different unions participating. He is also the co-founder of the San Diego Hospitality Training Trust. In these capacities, Jef works tirelessly to assure that the hard working union members who fall under these plans have a safe and secure financial future. Jef's innovation, enthusiasm and insight bring so much to the working families of San Diego.

People like Jef Eatchel perpetuate these qualities and that is why the San Diego Imperial Counties Labor Council recognize and honor him with the 2005 "Solidarity Award."

TRIBUTE TO THE SCOTT COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION POST 24

**HON. BEN CHANDLER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Scott County American Legion Post 24. This Sunday, May 29, they will begin their annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage.

Beginning at 8 a.m., these dedicated veterans, along with family and friends, will depart from the Scott County Courthouse and travel to nine cemeteries to honor and show respect to our many departed veterans. They will arrive at the Georgetown Cemetery between 4:30 and 5 p.m. At this time they will also dedicate the stunning new 22 ft. marker honoring all branches of service.

The history of this important organization dates back to the end of World War I, when



15 surviving veterans returned to their homes in Scott County. This first pilgrimage was made in three horse drawn buggies to three different cemeteries.

Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day weekend, it is important we honor and pay tribute to all who have served or are currently serving in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. At a time when we have thousands of men and women still in harms way in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is essential we all take a moment to remember their great service and sacrifice.

The annual Memorial Day Pilgrimage of the Scott County American Legion Post 24 is a truly wonderful way to honor the men and women of the Armed Forces. I am sincerely grateful for their efforts.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1815) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Chairman, I thank Mr. HUNTER, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, for including my amendment in the en bloc package.

It is the intent of Congress and in the interest of national security that we maintain a strong and healthy industrial base if we are to remain the strongest nation on Earth. Even the founder of modern-day capitalism and free trade, Adam Smith, recognized the need for a nation to be able to depend upon its own industrial and agricultural base and not rely on foreign sources for its defense needs. We cannot maintain our role as global leader on a pure services-based economy.

This amendment strengthens the Buy American Act, BAA, by restoring the original intent that more than 50 percent of the components in end products purchased by the Department of Defense shall be mined, produced, or manufactured inside the United States.

The Buy American Act originally passed Congress during the Great Depression. The intent of Congress was that to qualify under the Buy American Act, a company had to have substantially all of a product made, grown, or mined in the United States. However, regulations implementing the Buy American Act have subsequently redefined "substantially all" to mean simply greater than 50 percent.

Yet even that regulation has been weakened even further over the years. The Pentagon has used the "public interest" exception to waive the Buy American Act to treat the purchase of some foreign goods as if they were made in America. The original intent of the Buy American Act has been undermined by procurement memoranda of understanding, MOU, and other agreements with various foreign countries that permit the substitution of foreign components for components mined, produced, or manufactured inside the United

States. These are not treaties or trade agreements approved by Congress—these were Executive Branch agreements not subject to review by Congress.

Thus, the Buy American laws are basically worthless. There are so many holes in the law that it means nothing when a company says they comply with the Buy American Act. The exception—and it's a big one—is that the domestic content requirement doesn't have to be met if the items are procured from certain designated countries.

The Pentagon has MOUs with 21 developed countries that waive the Buy American Act because the Defense Department has determined that, for these countries, complying with the BAA is "inconsistent with the public interest." Basically, a company getting an award from the Pentagon can claim compliance with the Buy American Act without having to actually make anything here, as long as the components come from one of the 21 countries.

Too often, agencies claim they need the best for the least, implying that Americans can't make the best or compete on price and quality. But "best value" is the standard, which means price shouldn't be the reigning factor. The best value for Americans is to have a strong industrial base and we can't do that if DOD forces U.S. companies to compete on price with foreign companies that are owned, subsidized, or controlled by their governments.

It is important to remember that this amendment does not increase the share of the Buy American content, but simply codifies the content percentage of what is in existing regulation.

#### HEROES EARNED RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2005*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my support for H.R. 1499, the Heroes Retirement Opportunities Act. This important legislation allows military personnel serving combat zones to deduct contributions to their individual retirement plans.

The brave men and women of the United States armed forces risk their lives to defend our freedom and to continue the war on terror. These outstanding individuals are called upon to be stronger, braver, and tougher than they ever thought possible.

It is our duty to reward the men and women who risk their lives for our country, and the Heroes Retirement Opportunities Act accomplishes that goal. This bill will protect as much of their pay for the future as possible.

I know first hand the sacrifices our service men and women make. My husband retired 1st Lieutenant Dexter Lehtinen, was wounded in the Vietnam War by a grenade that almost took his life. Soon my stepson, Aviator 1st Lieutenant Douglas Lehtinen, is preparing to deploy to Iraq. I am certain that he will meet individuals who, like his father, have paid a tremendous price to uphold our ideals of freedom and democracy. By passing the Heroes Retirement Opportunities Act, we can do our part to assure a more certain future for those who risk their lives to protect ours.

To all the brave men and women who have served and now serve in our armed forces . . .

Thank you, on behalf of a grateful Nation.

#### TOM WOOD: LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR!

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I acknowledge a great friend of labor, Tom Wood—named the "Labor Leader of the Year" by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO.

Tom began his career as a Distribution Clerk with the United States Postal Service as a member of the American Postal Workers Union (APWU—Local 197) in January 1972. Within six months, he became a Shop Steward and started representing employees' rights. He noticed that other employees needed representation because they were too shy to represent themselves; he then became involved in assuring that employees would be treated fairly and justly.

In 1974, Tom was elected as Clerk Craft Director and subsequently has represented the APWU in several capacities since: Secretary-Treasurer, Executive Vice President and as the President of his Local Union since 1990. He has been the APWU chief negotiator for all local contracts for San Diego represented employees, and has made it a point to see that all postal managers treat employees with dignity and respect. Tom has established a reputation of vigorously representing his members, while still being responsive to the needs of the employer and their constant struggle with the "budget."

Tom has served as a member of the Board of Directors on the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council for the last fifteen years and as President since 2004. Several years ago, under his leadership, the APWU began looking with other labor unions in town to buy their own property, and became partners with the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFSCME, HERE, CWA and IATSE in Mission Valley's United Labor Center.

Congratulations Tom Wood, on your recognition as "Labor Leader of the Year"!

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT JACOB SIMPSON

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, let us recognize the life and praise the sacrifice of an American Hero.

Just a few days ago, Sergeant Jacob Simpson was killed in action during a reconnaissance patrol in Iraq.

Jacob died as he lived—helping the people of Tikrit in their efforts to secure a peace, and realize their aspirations for a democratic society. Oregon mourns his passing. As a society we have too few of his character; we will all feel his loss for years to come.

Jacob was an exceptional young man who possessed a kind heart, an inquisitive mind, and a dedication to family and friends that was as uncommon as it was devout. After completing his general education studies, Jacob entered the United States Army to build a new life for himself. Sergeant Simpson was a proud, dedicated soldier; he was a team player, always willing to volunteer for an extra job, a hard assignment—but he was so much more.

He was a patriot—an earnest young man who believed citizenship meant responsibility. Jacob Simpson accepted the duty of being an American as freely as he did its freedoms. True to his nature, Sergeant Simpson used his time in uniform to adjust his focus, investigate his academic interests—to develop a plan for rest of his life. Jacob planned on attending college after his discharge.

But Jacob will never again enjoy the winds of the Columbia Gorge, the view of Mount Ashland, or the sounds of his guitar. He returned to Iraq for a second tour of duty well aware of the challenges, the risks, and dangers. He gave his last full measure of devotion keeping faith with his charge.

Jacob Simpson never faltered, never wavered, and never failed—he understood his duties and sacrificed everything he had, and everything he never would have, for the ideals of liberty. His courage is a lesson for us all.

In his brief twenty-four years, Jacob Simpson made a difference in the lives of thousands. With hope, determination, and uncommon valor—Jacob helped blaze the trail for a new generation of Iraqis to have the right to choose a new destiny.

It is now up to us left behind, here—to ensure the life and death of Jacob Simpson is remembered—to keep its promise. Let us recommit ourselves to the tasks at hand. We must never forget.

#### TRIBUTE TO DONALD “DONNIE” YOUNG

#### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Donald “Donnie” Young, a Denver policeman who tragically lost his life in a senseless act of violence earlier this month.

Detective Young was 43 years old, a devoted husband and a father. He was a 12-year veteran of the Denver Police Department and a recipient of the police Medal of Honor. Fellow officers remembered Donnie as a well-liked, friendly man with a care-free attitude who adore his family. He was a running back on the police football team and an avid Harley motorcycle rider.

His tragic death has saddened and will continue to be felt by the entire Denver community. He will no doubt be sorely missed by all, and most of all those who knew and loved him.

On behalf of the House of Representatives, I want to take this time to express my deepest sympathy and heartfelt condolences to Mr. Young's family and friends.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### RECOGNIZING THE COAST GUARD, THE COAST GUARD AUXILIARY, AND THE NATIONAL SAFE BOAT- ING COUNCIL

SPEECH OF

#### HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2005*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to express my support of H.R. 243, and to recognize the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the National Safe Boating Council for their efforts to promote National Safe Boating Week.

I represent Florida's 18th District, and a large portion of my Congressional district is surrounded by water. To many of my constituents, and to many Floridians, boating is a way of life. National Safe Boating Week reminds us that even the most experienced boater must always be attentive and vigilant to prevent accidents that hurt or kill thousands of Americans each year. The National Safe Boating Council deserves our thanks for its public education efforts.

The Coast Guard's mission is not limited to our home waters. Numerous Coast Guard vessels are deployed to U.S. Central Command in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, including two 110-foot patrol boats from South Florida—the USCGC *Baranof* and the USCGC *Maui*, each with 22 personnel aboard—are currently deployed in Bahrain and patrol in the North Arabian Gulf.

I join the citizens of South Florida in saluting the bravery and dedication of the men and women serving in the United States Coast Guard who are keeping the American people safe and who are defending our freedom both at home and abroad.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. KENNY C. HULSHOF

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. HULSHOF. Mr. Speaker, on May 19, 2005, during consideration of H.R. 2361 the Fiscal Year 2006 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, I inadvertently recorded my vote as “No” on the amendment offered by Mr. BEAUPREZ to increase funding for Wildland Management (Rollcall Vote No. 195). It was my intent to record my vote as “Aye” on this amendment.

#### IGNORING INTERNATIONAL LAW: NIGERIA'S CONTINUING PRES- ENCE ON CAMEROON'S BAKASSI PENINSULA

#### HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the continued failure of the Nigerian Government to respect international law regarding Cameroon's Bakassi Peninsula.

In October 2002, the International Court of Justice overwhelmingly held that the Peninsula rightfully belongs to Cameroon. As a result, the ICJ demanded that Nigeria rapidly and unconditionally remove its military, police, and civilian officials from Cameroonian territory. Almost three years later, Mr. Speaker, Nigerian military forces are still on the Bakassi Peninsula.

Nigerian President Obasanjo recently has taken some admirable steps to combat corruption and advance democracy in his country. On this key issue, however, Nigeria has been less than forthcoming. At the outset of the Bakassi dispute, President Obasanjo promised that Nigeria would abide by whatever decision the ICJ reached. It has not. After the ICJ decision, Nigeria promised that it would withdraw all of its troops by September 2004. It has not.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush recently declared that the United States recognizes and respects its obligations to the International Court of Justice. We must ask for nothing less from Nigeria and our other friends in Africa and around the world.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA- TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

#### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1815) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes:

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, under the current Administration, waste, fraud, and abuse in federal contracts have proliferated. No-bid contracts have soared. Oversight of federal contracts has often been turned over to private companies with blatant conflicts of interest. Billions of dollars have been squandered on contracts that enrich private companies but provide little or no benefit to the taxpayer.

Yesterday, at the Rules Committee, I offered an amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill to help restore integrity to the federal contracting process. The amendment would have prohibited contractor conflicts of interest and stop the use of abusive “monopoly contracts.” It would have also ensured greater transparency and accountability. I am deeply disappointed that the Rules Committee refused to make the amendment in order and allow an open debate on this important issue on the House floor.

This Administration now relies on oversight contractors with conflicts of interest. In March 2004, the Defense Department awarded seven contracts to help oversee the implementation of a larger number of Iraqi reconstruction contracts. One of the oversight contractors, CH2M Hill, has ongoing domestic contractual relationships with three of the four firms it oversees: Washington Group International, Fluor, and AMEC.

My amendment would have ensured that oversight contractors are truly independent, without any business or contractual relationships with the companies whose contracts they are helping to assess.



My amendment would have prohibited the abusive practice of monopoly contracts, requiring the Administration to use contract vehicles that allow multiple contractors to compete for individual projects. That way we could have some competition between the companies at the project level—and competition is the best way to control costs.

Finally Mr. Chairman, my amendment would have required the Department to submit to appropriate congressional committees a list of all audits that find more than \$1 million in contractor overcharges, and to provide full copies of specific audits requested by the chairmen and ranking members of those committees. In this way, the amendment would have enhanced the ability of Congress to discover contractor abuses and promoting greater transparency.

Unfortunately, the current Administration has tried to hide contractor overcharges from Congress, international auditors, and the public, impeding oversight and diminishing accountability.

For example, for months the Defense Department refused to provide copies of audits completed by the Defense Contract Audit Agency relating to Halliburton's oilfield reconstruction work in Iraq. Slowly, we gained access to these reports through unofficial channels. The first report showed overcharges of more than \$100 million. We now have six of these audits, and the overcharges exceed \$212 million. To this day, we have still not received the remaining audits under this contract.

By refusing to allow a debate on the common sense changes proposed by my amendment, the Republican leadership in Congress is trying to bury these serious problems as well.

I will vote for this bill. I support our troops and this bill will enhance the safety of our men and women in uniform and improve their quality of life. But I am deeply concerned that Congress is not doing nearly enough to stop wasteful and unethical contracting practices.

#### INTRODUCING THE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORK MEDICARE EQUITY ACT

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join with my friend and colleague Rep. JIM LEACH (R-IA) to introduce the Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act of 2005. Sen. MIKULSKI is introducing the companion bill in the Senate. This simple, bipartisan bill would greatly improve access to mental health services for Medicare beneficiaries in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) by allowing clinical social workers to direct bill for their services.

This legislation seeks to correct a flaw in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 with respect to Medicare coverage of clinical social work services to nursing home residents. The law omits Certified Social Workers (CSWs) from a list of clinical professionals allowed to directly bill Medicare Part B for mental health services provided to Medicare beneficiaries in SNFs. As a result of this omission, Medicare beneficiaries in nursing homes often go without necessary mental health services.

Numerous reports suggest that mental illness is highly prevalent in nursing homes, with mental health problems affecting more than 80 percent of the residents. These mental disorders—including major depression, anxiety, and severe cognitive impairment of Alzheimer's disease—interfere with a person's ability to carry out activities of daily living. Furthermore, older people have the highest rate of suicide of any age group, accounting for 20 percent of all suicide deaths. Thus, access to mental health services for seniors in nursing homes is critically important.

Clinical social workers are highly trained mental health professionals and have been approved providers in the Medicare program since 1987. They provide 61 percent of mental health treatment in our country, and constitute the single largest group of mental health providers in the United States. Clinical social workers are also cost effective because they are paid less than Medicare's other mental health providers. They are reimbursed at 75 percent of the rate paid to psychologists.

Sadly, in many cases vulnerable nursing home residents have no access to mental health services when highly skilled CSWs are unable to bill Medicare Part B for services in SNFs. Rural and other medically underserved areas are particularly disadvantaged because psychiatrists and psychologists are often unavailable.

Before the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, clinical social workers were able to bill Medicare directly for providing mental health services to SNF residents, just like clinical psychologists and psychiatrists. Their current exclusion from this provider list is indefensible.

The ultimate victims of the current regulations are the vulnerable seniors who need mental health care. Mental health treatment works. Alzheimer's patients and their families can benefit enormously from psycho-education and counseling around how to cope and manage behavior problems. Research trials have repeatedly demonstrated that psychotherapy, either alone, or in combination with medication, can be effective in treating depression and debilitating anxiety.

The Clinical Social Work Medicare Equity Act of 2005 again makes it possible for CSWs to provide mental health services in skilled nursing facilities. This legislation helps to ensure access to needed mental health services for the many Medicare beneficiaries who reside in skilled nursing facilities. This bill is a small technical change to existing law, but would have the enormous effect of improving the lives of Medicare beneficiaries in nursing homes who are suffering from mental illness. We urge our colleagues to work with us to enact this important legislation this year.

#### MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE TO BRONX WAR HEROES

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, the ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are a constant reminder of the high cost of war. As they have done throughout America's history, selfless men and women continue to make the ultimate sacrifice for our country. We as Ameri-

cans may disagree on when, where, or if the country should go to war but we must all agree that the men and women who stand ready to sacrifice their lives for their Nation deserve nothing less than the respect and admiration of us all. As we commemorate the contributions of our fallen soldiers on this Memorial Day, I want to pay special tribute to Sergeant Cornelius Charlton and Private First Class William Thompson, two brave African American soldiers from the South Bronx who were posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their outstanding service in the Korean War. The stories of these two soldiers are dramatic but largely unknown.

Sergeant Charlton was living in the Bronx, New York when he enlisted. Originally assigned to a desk job, Charlton volunteered for combat duty with Company C of the 24th Infantry Regiment of the 25th Infantry Division. On June 2, 1951, Charlton's platoon commander was wounded and evacuated from the field. Charlton took command of the unit's assault against Hill 543 and knocked out two enemy positions. Even though he had suffered a serious wound, Charlton led a third charge to capture the hill. Without regard for his own safety, he personally attacked the last enemy position on the other side of the hill. Fatally wounded by a grenade, Charlton struggled onward and single handedly took out the enemy. As a result of his indomitable courage, superb leadership, and gallant self sacrifice, Sergeant Charlton was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Private First Class Thompson enlisted in the army in 1945 at the young age of 18. His address at time of enlistment was the Home for Homeless Boys in the Bronx. Thompson was described by his friends as being helpful and cheerful but few if any of his friends believed he could succeed as a soldier. However, he proved them all wrong. On August 2, 1951 near Haman, Korea, enemy forces mounted a surprise attack on Pfc. Thompson's unit. Acting quickly and decisively, Thompson set up his machine gun in the path of the onslaught and pinned down the enemy, giving his unit time to withdraw to a more tenable position. Although hit repeatedly by enemy fire, he continued to return fire until he was mortally wounded by an enemy grenade. Thompson's dauntless courage and gallant self sacrifice saved the lives of many in his unit and earned him a posthumous Congressional Medal of Honor.

What makes the stories of these two men so outstanding is the fact they were African Americans fighting for a country that refused to fight for them. These two men epitomized every characteristic we expect our soldiers to possess: selflessness, dignity, courage and honor.

Mr. Speaker, fortunately, there is a group of dedicated veterans, the Friends of Charlton Garden, who are working tirelessly to preserve the memory of these fallen heroes in the Bronx by establishing a memorial park aptly named the Charlton-Thompson Korean War Veterans Memorial. I am proud of the work that the Friends of Charlton Garden are doing to ensure this monument stands as a symbol of gratitude to the selfless acts of heroism displayed by all of our fallen soldiers, and I know in my heart that we as a legislative body must do more to supplement their good works. I'm

sure that the Friends of Charlton Garden would agree that we can build no monument large or grand enough to honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for this country. The closest we can come to repaying these soldiers is to work to ensure that the world knows war no more. As idealistic and impossible as it may seem it is what their souls cry out for. So, Mr. Speaker, it is what I will continue to work for and it is what I ask my colleagues to work for. Surely, there can be no greater monument to our soldiers than peace.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF SISTER DOROTHY STANG

SPEECH OF

### HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2005*

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am an original co-sponsor of H. Con. Res. 89, legislation to honor a truly distinguished native of the city of Dayton, which I represent in Congress, Sister Dorothy Stang.

Sister Stang was brutally murdered in Brazil on February 12. She was a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur, and had moved to the Amazon region of Brazil 22 years ago to help impoverished families in the Amazon learn how to engage in sustainable farming, and help them in their struggle for land rights. It was while she was working for the poor that she was murdered. It was as Sister Stang was traveling to a meeting of impoverished farmers that two gunmen approached her. Sister Stang read from the Bible to the gunmen, who nevertheless shot her several times.

Sister Stang's commitment to the poor, her quest for fair treatment of those who felt they did not have a voice, and her belief in the power of faith serve as an example from which we all can draw valuable lessons. It is fitting that the House of Representatives will vote today to draw the attention of the Congress and our Nation to the life of this selfless and inspirational woman.

### HONORING THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF ROBERT HEDGER

### HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send the Congress's birthday wishes to Robert Hedger on the occasion of his 70th birthday celebration. Father to Matthew, Sarah, Adam, Douglas and Stephen—a valuable member of my personal staff—and grandfather to Allison, Jonathon, Samuel, Kristina and Sarah, Robert has brought a wonderful family into this world. I offer my best wishes for continued good health and good fortune for he and his family and for many more gatherings such as that which he will hold this Memorial Day weekend when he will be surrounded by his loved ones at his home in Corea, Maine.

### HONORING THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (NFIA)

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise on the House floor this evening to highlight the National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA). NFIA is an umbrella organization for over 200 associations, all of which represent the 2.2 million Americans of Indian origin.

Since the establishment of NFIA in 1980, the organization has served the Indian American community at the local, State and national level, by protecting the basic civil rights of Indian Americans and by promoting their rich cultural heritage. NFIA is a secular organization that accepts membership from all Indian Americans, irrespective of religious, regional, ethnic, professional or political affiliation. In addition to representing and encouraging political participation by Indian Americans, NFIA is also active in promoting strong relations between the United States and India.

NFIA is very active in the area of raising funds for natural disasters, both in the U.S. and India, and has funded many charitable projects. NFIA holds biennial conventions in various parts of the country to discuss, deliberate, and debate the contemporary issues facing the community. Lastly, NFIA conducts annual receptions on Capitol Hill in an effort to strengthen long-lasting relationships with Members of the House and Senate and to advance its agenda on behalf of Indian Americans and U.S.-India relations.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor the National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA) for its dedicated service.

### BAKASSI PENINSULA

### HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker I would like to share with my colleagues a situation that has been brought to my attention. An October 2002 ruling by the International Court of Justice affirmed that the disputed Bakassi Peninsula belongs to The Republic of Cameroon. I urge the nations of Cameroon and Nigeria to act in accordance with this ruling and move expeditiously to withdraw Nigerian troops and delineate the final border. Continued talks between the two parties are greatly encouraged, and it is my hope they will lead to an effective resolution.

### CONGRATULATING THE NAPERVILLE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Naperville Baseball Association

on its 50th anniversary and to thank its members for their enduring commitment to youth athletics throughout the Naperville community.

The Naperville Baseball Association is an institution that, for a half-century, has provided local children with a fun, safe way to play organized baseball. The association will be honored as part of "Naperville Baseball Day" on June 3, celebrating "baseball at its best for the past 50 years."

As a mother and a grandmother, I fondly recall my days of shepherding kids to and from various youth sporting events in my station wagon. As a former youth soccer coach, I remember trying to balance winning while ensuring that all the kids got a chance to play and have fun.

Each year as spring rolls around, kids across America grow excited with anticipation for baseball season. They come to the field hoping to emulate their big league idols, while their parents line the stands, anxious to see their son morph into the next Mickey Mantle or Ernie Banks, slamming the ball out of the park. After games, parents and kids, coaches and teammates, all congratulate one another and often celebrate over pizza or heaping scoops of ice cream. Mr. Speaker, this is youth baseball at its very best.

As our national pastime, baseball holds a special place in the hearts of so many Americans. For generations, families have bonded over hot dogs and Cracker Jack at Wrigley Field, Comiskey Park, and other legendary cathedrals of summer. But as vital as these familial baseball bonds are to encouraging a love of the game, organized baseball also remains an excellent resource for teaching invaluable life skills like teamwork, friendship, and sportsmanship.

The Naperville Baseball Association has promoted this vision of pure, timeless baseball for more than 50,000 children over its 50-year history. I am proud to add my voice to the many who wish to say thanks, and I am confident they will keep up the good work for at least another 50 years.

### HONORING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 21ST ANNUAL PROSECUTORS' OFFICE AWARDS

### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the recipients of the 2005 Prosecutors' Office Awards. These remarkable individuals have helped build a safer community through their faithfulness and perseverance while on duty. The following are this year's awards and recipients.

A Commendation for Valor is awarded to an officer for an extraordinary act of outstanding courage, without regard for personal safety, while in actual combat with an armed and dangerous perpetrator. This year a Commendation for Valor will be awarded to the following people: Officer Shay Sampson; Officer Melva Moss; Officer Buddy Camp.

A Commendation for Heroism is awarded to an officer for an act of outstanding courage, without regard for personal safety, which results in the saving of a life, or the futile attempt to save a life. A Commendation for Heroism may also be awarded to an officer who

makes an outstanding arrest while confronting an armed and dangerous perpetrator. This year a Commendation for Heroism will be awarded to the following people: Officer Evelyn Carlin; Det. Wayne Matthews.

The Commendation for Merit is given to an officer who has demonstrated intelligent and valuable police service. This year the Commendation for Merit will be awarded to the following people: Det. Bret Johnson; Inspector Dave McClintock; Sr. Investigator Patricia Taulane; Police Officer Thomas Jeffers; Patrolman Kevin Koykka; Sgt. Paul Sims; Ptlm. William Hawkins, Jr.; Ptlm. Sean Plasket; Ptlm. Howard Dawson, IV; Ptlm. Don Stone; Ptlm. Thomas Farrell; Sr. Investigator C. DeCristofor; Investigator Edgardo Perez; Investigator Carlos Plaza; Det. Angel Ramos; Sr. Inv. Martin Wolf; Inv. James Bruno; Det. Eric White; Det. Sgt. Michael Basileo; Sr. Inv. Ron Moten; Inv. Miguel Rubert; Inv. Felix Martinez; Sr. Inv. Steve Settles; Det. Thomas Kalick; Sr. Inv. Diane Wilson; Det. Wayne Matthews; Sr. Inv. John Greer; Det. Edward Fallon; Det. Sgt. Christopher Leone; Inv. Michael Dougherty; Inv. Matthew McKeown; Inv. James Pisano; Inv. Robert McCross; Inv. Fawn Ackerman; Inv. Catherine Fisher; Inv. Jim Dougherty; Sgt. W. Mahan; Inv. John Ellis; Det. Scott Beasley; Det. Michael Meyers; Sgt. Frank Gagliardi; Ptlm. Michael Williams; Ptlm. Keith Barrett; Sgt. Neil Larson; Inv. Amy Jewusiak; Inv. Mike Molle; P/O Gary Badger; P/O Timothy Tedesco; P/O Robert Kempf; Off. J. Valsquez; Off. Parrish Powers; Off. Robert Chew; Off. Michael Fosler; Det. Kirk Williams.

A Letter of Commendation is awarded to an officer in recognition of police service, who is exceptional, and has served beyond the requirements of routine duty. This year a Letter of Commendation will be awarded to the following people: Inv. Janene Bahr; Det. Ken Nelson; Sr. Inv. Brian DeCosmo; Ptlm. William Lyons; Ptlm. Thomas Harchaw; Ptlm. Sean McGann; Inv. William Rummel.

A Citizen's Commendation may be awarded to any person who provides a significant contribution to the public safety through a specific act of outstanding courage, without regard for personal safety, which results in the saving of a life or the futile attempt to save a life. This year a Citizen's Commendation will be awarded to the following people: Ngoc V. Lee; Tracey Evans; Kim Belcher; Greg Parkill; Diane Schiavone-Loudon; Carlton Loudon; James Davies.

A Unit Citation is to be presented to any local, State of Federal Law Enforcement Unit, Agency, Department, Strike Force, etc. for outstanding performance and accomplishments made in the public interest. This year a Unit Citation will be awarded to the Camden Anticrime Partnership.

The Prosecutor's Service Award is given to any law enforcement personnel (officer or civilian) who, by personal dedication, thoroughness, competence, and a cooperative spirit, significantly facilitated the work of the Camden County Prosecutor's Office in the efficient and productive administration of justice. This year the Prosecutor's Service Award will be given to the following people: Timothy Kohlmyer; Sr. Inv. Kenneth Curcio; Asst. Pros. Mark Chase. Two special presentations will be made to Helmrich's Towing and Father Michael Manion for their support of the Prosecutor's Office and Camden County law enforcement.

The recipients of the 2005 Prosecutors' Office Awards have all demonstrated a strong

commitment to advancing law enforcement in their community. All of these men and women have committed themselves to improve the quality of life for county residents by attacking crime at every level. I thank all those who have helped to create a safer America by their commitment to law enforcement, and encourage my colleagues to support them in the U.S. Congress. Together we can continue to create better and safer communities throughout the country.

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#### A SALUTE TO KATIE BROWNELL

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a young girl who is in a league of her own—Kate Brownell. Katie is a shy 11-year-old girl of few words.

But when she gets on the baseball field she lets her pitching do the talking. And she rocks!

Brownell is the only girl in the Oakfield, Alabama Little League baseball program. She threw a perfect game for the Dodgers in an 11–0 victory over the Yankees. How dominant was she? Katie struck out all 18 batters she faced, yielding no more than two balls to any batter, in a six inning victory. Katie accomplished something league officials can't remember anyone—boy or girl—ever doing.

Brownell is not just good at pitching; she is also great at the plate. Katie's batting average is .714. When I first read her story I was so excited and inspired by this young girl's feat. I was so impressed that I wanted to be sure to come down to the floor and recognize her.

She exemplifies what you can achieve regardless of gender. Young women like Katie also serve to remind us that we can pretty much do everything men can, and sometimes better.

#### ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE VISION PRESERVATION ACT OF 2005

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Vision Preservation Act of 2005. I am proud to introduce this legislation today along with my fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Vision Caucus: Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Representative DAVID PRICE and Representative PAT TIBERI. The four of us created the Congressional Vision Caucus in 2003 to increase education and awareness of vision problems among Members of Congress and their staff. The Vision Caucus has been fortunate to have the support of Prevent Blindness America and many other vision organizations in these efforts.

In 2004, Prevent Blindness America joined with the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Optometric Association, Lighthouse International and the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research to put together an action plan to address vision problems. The legislation we introduce today is a legislative response to the recommendations outlined in that action plan.

Currently, an estimated 80 million people in the United States have a potentially blinding eye disease, 3 million have low vision, 1.1 million are legally blind, and 200,000 are more severely visually impaired. In my state of Texas alone, more than 370,000 people suffer from diabetic retinopathy. At least 90,000 Texans over 50 live with AMD. And cataracts affect more than 1.2 million people in my state.

Despite evidence that half of all blindness can be prevented, the number of Americans who suffer vision loss is expected to double by 2030 unless more effective prevention and treatment efforts can be implemented. The Vision Preservation Act will enhance current prevention and treatment efforts by focusing increased attention on vision research, expanding current federal vision programs, developing vision screening standards and providing for vision rehabilitation services under Medicare.

The Vision Preservation Act builds on the quality programs currently in operation at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Eye Institute within the National Institutes of Health. These agencies lead the way in health care research and the prevention of disease, and the enactment of this legislation will ensure that appropriate federal resources and research are dedicated toward stemming the vision diseases that afflict too many Americans.

I encourage my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation in recognition of Healthy Vision Month and ask for their continued support of the Congressional Vision Caucus's efforts to help improve the vision of our constituents throughout this nation.

THE GREAT APE CONSERVATION  
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, with my colleague from Washington, Mr. BAIRD, I am introducing the Great Ape Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2005. In the 5 years since its enactment, the Act has helped protect threatened primates, including chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos, orangutans, and gibbons. This reauthorization is needed to continue progress in this important field.

The funds provided by the Great Ape Conservation Act have gone to such diverse projects as: protecting chimpanzee habitat from logging operations; establishing anti-poaching enforcement units; starting conservation education programs; coordinating gibbon population surveys and threat assessments; and implementing ape health monitoring programs.

And every federal dollar spent under the Great Ape Conservation Act has been matched many times over by local and international funds. The \$2,940,000 Congress appropriated between FY 2001 and FY 2003 was leveraged by \$4,275,032 in non-Federal matching funds or in-kind contributions.

To take just one example, in 2003 the Fish and Wildlife Service invested \$45,000 in the Mengamé Reserve for Chimpanzees and Gorillas; this investment leveraged more than \$100,000 from other sources, funding which has helped the Jane Goodall Institute study a promising area for great ape conservation on the border of Cameroon and Gabon.

But despite the ongoing successes of the Act, the threats to these noble primates continue.

Press accounts and reports from the field indicate that these species continue to be placed in jeopardy by habitat loss, poaching, logging, and the bush meat trade. The Great Ape Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2005 specifically authorizes funding to address these root causes of threats to great apes.

In addition, natural disasters and their aftermath can have a devastating impact on wildlife. Efforts to rebuild after the 2004 tsunami have led to increased logging, putting further pressure on already-threatened orangutans and other forest species. That is why the legislation we are introducing today authorizes

funding to address critical great ape conservation needs in Aceh Province, Indonesia.

The Great Ape Conservation Reauthorization Act extends the program's authorization through the year 2010. The contributions of the Great Ape Conservation Act have been very important, but there is much work yet to be done.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST  
CENTENNIAL MONTH

**HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition for the 100th anniversary of the creation of the San Juan National Forest in my Congressional District in Colorado.

On June 3, 1905 the San Juan National Forest was created through presidential proclamation by Theodore Roosevelt. This year also marks the centennial of the creation of the U.S. Forest Service, the Federal agency which manages the San Juan National Forest and 155 other National Forests across the country.

The San Juan National Forest encompasses over 1.8 million acres of southwestern Colorado, an area more than 120 miles wide and 60 miles long. This great forest has historically contributed to the communities of southwestern Colorado through the supply of timber, minerals, oil and gas, livestock grazing, recreation, clean water and air, and other resources. The above amenities are important to the quality of life and economic well being for southwestern Colorado.

I ask all citizens to join in the Centennial Celebration of the San Juan National Forest through the many activities scheduled for June 1-4, 2005 and ask my colleagues to join me in proclaiming June, 2005 as San Juan National Forest Centennial Month.

KEEP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS  
IN HUD HOUSING SAFE  
FROM THEIR ABUSERS

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Safe Housing Identification Exemption for the Lives of Domestic Violence Victims (SHIELD) Act.

Mr. Speaker, I know of the victims that have finally built up the courage to leave their abusive relationships and have nowhere to go but a homeless shelter. I know of the women who everyday are scared for their lives because their abusers are trying to track them down.

Mr. Speaker, I know of the victims who want to feel safe, who want to believe that these federal agencies and services are there to protect them. And, ultimately all of our federal services are intended to effectively serve and protect our citizens.

But, I also know of the victims who are scared that they can be tracked down by their

predators and probably would not seek housing assistance if they knew about the HUD requirement to disclose their personal information and location. All HUD homeless shelters and food banks, domestic violence centers and transitional housing receiving McKinney-Vento Funds are required to input personal identifying data into the Homeless Management Information System Database. This tracking database requires personal identifying information including names, Social Security numbers, date of birth, race and ethnicity. This personal information database can be easily accessed by personnel working in state, local and federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I am thinking of the victims whose abusers readily have access to this personal information. These abusers may work in one of these agencies or have the ability to access this database. All they would have to do is type in the victim's name or other identifying pieces of information and they would immediately know where the victim is staying or the domestic violence shelter they visited. A loophole like this is far too detrimental to their safety and could put many victims of domestic violence in further danger.

In order to address this problem, I have introduced the SHIELD Act along with my colleague from Florida, KATHERINE HARRIS. This bill would require any agency participating in the Homeless Management Information System to exclude personal identifying information of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Instead the legislation recommends the use of nonpersonal identifying information for data collection and statistical purposes.

Reaching out for assistance is already a big step for many victims of domestic violence. We should not put them in greater danger or deter them from seeking these valuable services because of an agency loophole. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the SHIELD Act.

RECOGNIZING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF  
THE STATE OF ISRAEL

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 149, a bill recognizing the 57th Anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel. Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, marks a day when Theodor Herzl's prophetic words became reality: "if you will it, it is no dream."

The State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation 57 years ago, and it continues to be a strong friend of the United States and a beacon of democracy in the Middle East.

On May 14, 1948, Israel was officially established, and the United States was one of the first countries to recognize Israel, doing so within 11 minutes of its creation. Israel has come a long way since those initial minutes. The Israeli people have contributed greatly as scholars, innovators, educators, and more, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize their accomplishments.

Since the very beginning of its existence, Israel has been a vital ally of the United States, enjoying a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect. America and Israel shall remain close friends for years to come, particularly as Israel continues to seek peace with her neighbors. On the Jewish Calendar, Israel's Independence Day falls on the 5th of Iyar, corresponding this year with May 12, 2005. This day is a joyous time to reflect with pride on the work of the men and women who knew that one day the dream of the State of Israel would become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in extending warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate this 57th year of Israel's independence. I wish them peace and prosperity in the years to come, *kein yehi ratzon*.

RECOGNIZING JUDY GOFF, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER EMERITUS ALAMEDA LABOR COUNCIL

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judy Goff who served, from 1999 to 2005, as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Alameda Labor Council, based in Oakland, California. She was the first woman elected to lead a major labor council in California and was also the first woman elected statewide President of SEIU Local 535.

Judy Goff's leadership in the labor movement is exemplary. She has consistently supported labor solidarity by speaking at numerous rallies, walking countless picket lines, and being arrested for the cause of worker's rights.

She is a founding member of the Labor Immigrant Organizing Network, which initiated a successful resolution to change the National AFL-CIO policy on immigrant workers' rights. Ms. Goff has never hesitated to put herself and the labor movement squarely on the side of the downtrodden and oppressed. She is a staunch supporter of workers' civil rights. During her leadership, the Alameda Labor Council opposed police action against workers and protesters and was instrumental in changing police tactics and policy to insure safety and respect.

Increased diversity in the leadership of the Alameda Labor Council is another example of Judy Goff's consistent voice and steady leadership to represent the interest of all workers, locally, nationally, and internationally. She has devoted her efforts to improving labor education at all levels, including service on the California State Assembly Speaker's Commission on Labor Education.

In keeping with her ongoing interest of economic parity for workers, she spearheaded the successful passage of a Living Wage Ordinance in the cities of Berkeley, Hayward, and Oakland as well as the Port of Oakland.

On June 10, 2005, the Central Labor Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO will bestow its Lifetime Achievement Award on Judy Goff as Unionist of the Year. I join the Council and Ms. Goff's friends, family and admirers in appreciation for her many years of dedicated

service and congratulate her on a distinguished career in the labor movement.

SIXTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY: COLUMBIAN AWARDED NAVY CROSS AT THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA

### HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize the tremendous sacrifice of Thomas Marvin "Tim" Owen, Jr., who as a Water Tender First Class, United States Navy, served on the USS *Butler*. The USS *Butler* was a destroyer that participated in many important naval battles in World War II. The *Butler* served as an escort ship near Casablanca, North Africa, and Dakar, French West Africa. She participated in the Sicily Invasion, Battle of the Seine, Invasion of Northern France at the Battle of Normandy and the Battle of Okinawa.

On May 25, 1945 at the Battle of Okinawa, bombs from a suicide plane exploded under the ship blowing out steam lines and flooding the forward fire room. The USS *West Virginia* stood by to assist the *Butler* until power was restored. During this time, two more suicide planes attacked the *Butler*.

Thomas Marvin Owen, Jr. was awarded the Navy Cross for heroic actions in this engagement. Even though he was mortally wounded, he continued to perform his duty at his post and aided other sailors on the *Butler*. He and eight shipmates were killed in the engagement and were buried at sea. His name is inscribed on the Honolulu Memorial Tablets for those missing in action or buried at sea.

JONATHAN WALLACE KROART  
MAKES HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

### HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Michael Galbraith Kroart and Mrs. Elizabeth Sparrow Kroart on the birth of their child, Master Jonathan Wallace Kroart. Jonathan was born on Thursday, May 5, 2005 and weighed 7 pounds and 14 ounces. My wife Faye and the entire Etheridge family join me in wishing Michael and Elizabeth great happiness during this very special time in their lives.

As a father of three, I know the immeasurable pride and rewarding challenges that children bring into your life. Their innocence keeps you young-at-heart. Through their inquiring minds and wide-eyed wonder, they show you the world in a fresh, new way and change your perspective on life. A little miracle, a new baby holds all the potential of what human beings can achieve.

I welcome young Jonathan into the world and wish Michael and Elizabeth all the best as they steer him through all of the joys and challenges that life brings.

CONGRATULATING STEVEN SHARFSTEIN ON HIS INSTALLATION AS AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Steven S. Sharfstein on his installation as President of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Sharfstein is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Sheppard Pratt Health System in Baltimore, where he has worked for nearly 20 years. Located in Towson, Maryland, Sheppard Pratt Health System is a private, non-profit behavioral health organization with over 1,500 employees. Founded in 1891, Sheppard Pratt is the area's largest behavioral health care organization. The hospital's reputation as one of the leading organizations in the field of mental health is known not only in Maryland, but throughout the national and international mental communities.

Dr. Sharfstein is also Clinical Professor and Vice Chair of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland. A practicing clinician for more than 30 years, he is best known for his research and writing on the economics of practice and public mental health policy. Over 13 years, he has held a variety of positions at the National Institute of Mental Health, including Director of Mental Health Service Programs. This month, Dr. Sharfstein completes on May 27th his one year term as President-Elect of the American Psychiatric Association and begins his term as the 132nd President of the APA, the country's oldest national medical specialty society.

Dr. Sharfstein has established himself as an active leader in his profession and has worked to eliminate the stigma associated with mental health treatment. Throughout his years at Sheppard Pratt, Dr. Sharfstein's work has been truly inspirational in advancing the fight for mental health parity.

Dr. Sharfstein has served the American Psychiatric Association as chairman of the Budget Committee, the Committee on Managed Care, and the Ethics Appeals Board. He has also served as co-chair on the Committee on Psychiatric Reimbursement, as well as vice-chair of the Joint Commission on Government Relations.

A graduate of Dartmouth College and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dr. Sharfstein trained in psychiatry at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center in Boston from 1969 to 1972. He also received a Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government in 1973 and a certificate from the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School in 1991. He was Secretary of the American Psychiatric Association from 1991 to 1995 and its Vice President from 2002 to 2004.

Through his outstanding leadership at Sheppard Pratt Health System, Dr. Sharfstein has already made numerous invaluable contributions to the quality of psychiatric care. I look forward to continuing to work with him to advance the cause of quality mental health treatment, and I congratulate him on this achievement.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JOHN H. SCOTT, CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to one of this country's great civil rights leaders, Rev. John H. Scott. On May 7, I had the opportunity to attend a tribute to Rev. Scott, honoring the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the John H. Scott Memorial Fund in Tallulah, Louisiana. This living memorial was started at the request of Rev. Scott at the end of his life, and now provides scholarships to young people, as well as supporting other projects that advance the aims and ideals of the Reverend's life.

Rev. Scott was a minister and a civil rights leader who was devoted to improving the quality of life for African-Americans in this country. He was born in 1901, in a small, almost all-black parish in Louisiana, where black schools, businesses, and neighborhoods were thriving, but existed in almost total isolation from their white neighbors. He came to see that this seeming independence was not commensurate with equality, and he dedicated his life to the pursuit of that equality for all people, of all color, in all places.

He was a farmer, as well as a pastor for twenty-five years, president of the local NAACP for thirty-three years, and chairman of the East Carroll Ministerial Alliance for five, while still finding time to make regular visits to hospitals, senior citizens' homes, and prisons. His twenty-five year struggle for full voting rights for African-Americans is an exemplar of how individual people can indeed change the world. Armed with a passion for justice and ready to fight no matter what the cost, his local, grassroots efforts became a national movement that ultimately convinced Attorney General Robert Kennedy to join his crusade for equality for all. Despite growing up under the oppressive injustice of Jim Crow laws, and knowing the risks it presented to his own life and the lives of his friends, neighbors, and family members, he was unfaltering in his quest for progress.

His book, *Witness to the Truth*, which was compiled by his daughter, Cleo Scott Brown, is a collection of his writings and transcripts of his interviews; and I recommend it to all who wish to know more about the history of race relations in this country. We must understand the truth about our past struggles if we are ultimately to see success, because, in the words of Rev. Scott, "So much of what we will become depends on how we start." And Rev. Scott helped us start well. His life is a testament to the tenacity and courage that daily fortified our civil rights leaders and sustained them in their struggle to ensure human rights for every person, regardless of race, gender, or economic circumstance.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Rev. John H. Scott, and I acknowledge my own indebtedness here today. He once wrote, "History is of little value unless it inspires one to greater endeavors, or serves to guide against the mistakes of the past." As the first African-American elected to this great body from my State, I know that I have been inspired to greater endeavors by people like Rev. Scott, whose lives paved the way for my accomplishments.

I'd also like to thank Dr. Elsie Scott for bringing this extraordinary Foundation to my attention and to commend the other Scott family members including Jewel Scott, Johnita Scott, and Louis G. Scott.

Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor the memory of Rev. John H. Scott, and I know that all of my colleagues here join me in paying tribute to this man of uncommon distinction who history will remember as a great warrior in the struggle for civil rights.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. HUGH FERGUSON

**HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, one of our Nation's greatest assets is our veterans. When I look around this chamber and see the reflection of our democracy, I can't help but think of those who fought to ensure our safety, our strength, and our freedom.

I rise today to recognize an honored veteran and an extraordinary American, Mr. Hugh Ferguson.

Those who study World War II are aware that the United States was at war with Japan for three months after Germany surrendered. The end of the war with Japan came only after President Harry S. Truman made the brave and difficult decision to use the atomic bomb.

On August 9, 1945, Mr. Hugh Ferguson was piloting the B-29 bomber plane that dropped the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan. This mission required bravery, faith, and discipline in order to see it through. Mr. Ferguson was just a mere twenty-two years old when his country employed his piloting skills to end the battle and forever change the make-up of the world.

As Mr. Ferguson will tell you, he and his fellow pilots knew their acts would end World War II and save hundreds of thousands of American lives. This knowledge made it clear to Mr. Ferguson what his mission was and that his success was necessary—even at its great cost.

It takes a brave and faithful man to carry out the missions of the United States military. It takes an even braver man to test history with the new technology that was the atomic bomb. Yet, Mr. Ferguson's bravery did not stop there. Years later, he again answered the military's call of duty. Mr. Ferguson flew the only plane on site when the United States detonated the world's first hydrogen bomb on Eniwetok Atoll. Not knowing the consequences of this flight, he and his crew bravely documented the power of the hydrogen bomb for United States officials.

This year marks Mr. Ferguson's 82nd birthday. I wish to congratulate and honor him for his service to this country in the face of war. As a member of Congress, as a proud citizen of the United States, and as a person who enjoys the freedom this great Nation offers, I officially recognize Mr. Hugh Ferguson.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DR. JEFFREY CHARLES KELLER ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER THIRTY-THREE YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE DUBLIN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to one of Ohio's finest educators. After thirty-three years, Dr. Jeffrey C. Keller is retiring from the Dublin City School District. Dr. Keller, who for three decades has directed the Dublin Coffman High School instrumental music program, has been a leader in education and an inspiration to the community.

Raised in Prospect, Ohio, Dr. Keller began his career at Dublin High School in 1972, after earning his bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University. After three years, Dr. Keller returned to The Ohio State University where he earned his Masters and Doctoral degrees. After his graduate education, Dr. Keller returned to Dublin as director of music education, a position he has held ever since.

For more than 30 years, bands under Dr. Keller's direction have enjoyed a superior reputation in the State of Ohio. He has shared countless hours developing the talents and enjoyment of music in each of his students. For his efforts, Dr. Keller was recognized with the 2002 Ohio Music Educators' Association's Ohio Music Educator of the Year Award. In addition, Dr. Keller has been recognized by Capital University and Prescott High School in Arizona for his education and performance clinics. Dr. Keller was also awarded The School of Music Society of Alumni and Friends Award by his alma mater, The Ohio State University, for excellence in teaching in the music education division.

Beyond his deep commitment to the students of Dublin Coffman High School, Dr. Keller has also given greatly of himself to the community. As a result of his efforts as a community leader, Dr. Keller has been a recipient of the Dublin A.M. Rotary Signature Award, the Dublin Jaycees Golden Shamrock Award and the "God and Country" Music Award from the Greater Columbus Area Salvation Army.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Dr. Jeffrey C. Keller in recognition of his superlative service to the students, parents and friends of the Dublin Coffman Music Education Program. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize his many accomplishments. We wish Jeff, his wife Gail, and their daughter Kristany, all the best as we salute one of Ohio's finest citizens.

HONORING THE 130TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUMNER HIGH SCHOOL

**HON. WM. LACY CLAY**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sumner High School, the first school west of the Mississippi river to offer secondary



education to African Americans. This year marks the 130th anniversary of the school's founding as "The High School for Colored Children." Originally housed in the former Washington School at 11th and Spruce streets in downtown St. Louis, the school was renamed on October 12, 1875, in honor of Charles Sumner, a Massachusetts Senator who was an ardent supporter of African-American rights. In 1861 Senator Sumner was the first U.S. Senator to call for full emancipation. The decision to name the school in his honor reflected the school's role as a preeminent institution for African Americans. Dropping "colored school" in favor of Sumner High occurred fifteen years before local African-American leaders succeeded in persuading the St. Louis Board of Schools to designate names for all segregated schools.

In the aftermath of the Civil War, Missouri passed a new state constitution requiring all school boards to support education for African Americans. However, the Board of Education for Colored Schools occupied only rented space and its schools moved often. Sumner was no exception. In 1895 it was relocated to 15th and Walnut streets, near the saloons and pool halls of downtown St. Louis. Concerned citizens petitioned school officials to move the school again and in 1910 Sumner was relocated to The Ville neighborhood, where it occupied a new structure at 4248 Cottage Avenue. The new Sumner High strengthened the neighborhood's status as a center for middle-class African-American life in St. Louis.

Another historical landmark tied to Sumner High School involved the hiring of African-American teachers. Initially, Sumner had an all white faculty, but the parents requested that a special effort be made to recruit African-American teachers. Two years later, in 1877, the school's first African-American principal took charge.

Sumner High School further enhanced educational opportunities for African Americans in Missouri when, in 1890, it established an extension called the Sumner Normal School to train elementary school teachers. In 1925 the Sumner Normal School became a college; it was known as the Sumner Teachers College until 1930 when it was renamed Harriet Beecher Stowe Teachers College. In 1940 the Teachers College moved to new facility on Pendleton Street where it remained until 1954 when, in one of St. Louis' first efforts to desegregate its public schools, the St. Louis Board of Education merged Stowe College with the all-white Harris Teachers College.

Sumner graduated its first class in 1885 and over the years its alumni list boasts a number of accomplished African Americans, including the opera singer Grace Bumbry, activist Dick Gregory, musician Tina Turner, tennis great Arthur Ashe, Liberian Ambassador Lester Walton, educator Julia Davis, rock history legend Chuck Berry, performer Robert McFerrin, actor Robert Guillaume, Yankee catcher-outfielder (and the American League's first black Most Valuable Player) Elston Howard and local newscaster Julius Hunter, to name just a few.

Mr. Speaker, it is with deep pride that I recognize Sumner High School, a symbol of progress in African American history for its distinguished record of achievement in public education. As a community leader and elected official, I am proud to salute Sumner and all Sumner students and alumni on this very special anniversary. Sumner High School is a

source of pride for St. Louisans and a model for public schools across the nation.

#### AFFORDABLE HOUSING TAX CREDIT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

**HON. WILLIAM J. JEFFERSON**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today with my good friend and colleague from the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. ENGLISH, to introduce the "Affordable Housing Tax Credit Enhancement Act of 2005." Mr. ENGLISH and I share a passion for and commitment to ensuring that Americans have access to affordable, quality housing in which to live, to prosper and to raise their families. I am grateful for his continuing leadership in this area, and I am honored that he joins me today in introducing this important piece of legislation. I also am very pleased that 51 of our colleagues, including members from both sides of the aisle and several from the Committee on Ways and Means, join us today in introducing this measure.

Mr. Speaker, the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, LIHTC, program was created as part of the Tax Reform Act of 1986. Today, the LIHTC program is widely regarded as the nation's most successful housing production program resulting in the construction and rehabilitation of more than 1.3 million housing units for lower income households. As a direct result of the LIHTC program, 130,000 new affordable housing units come online every year.

In addition to producing housing, the LIHTC program is unparalleled in contributing to the revitalization of distressed neighborhoods and communities throughout the United States. LIHTC properties are frequently among the first investments in a concerted revitalization strategy. The credit drives and catalyzes public/private/community partnerships that replace blight with safe, affordable housing, attract private capital, and prime the market for other activities, including increased homeownership and expanded retail development.

The redirection of capital to affordable housing through a tax incentive creates net economic efficiencies, because the housing credit more effectively marshals private sector capital than would be accomplished through any direct spending program. Because it sets up competition among developers for credit allocations and among corporations for access to investment opportunities, the LIHTC is considerably more efficient than a direct spending program.

The success of the LIHTC program is virtually unmatched. However, as a Nation, we still confront a serious affordable housing deficit—a gap that we must bridge to ensure that our most vulnerable families have access to quality, affordable housing and safer neighborhoods in which to live and prosper.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Affordable Housing Tax Credit Enhancement Act of 2005. This legislation would make two important changes to current law. Most significantly, the bill would double the current LIHTC from \$1.85 per capita to \$3.70 per capita beginning in 2006, which would yield twice the number of affordable housing units annually and begin to close the current

gap. Second, the legislation would rename the LIHTC the "Affordable Housing" tax credit to remove any negative connotation and more accurately describe this effective program.

If this legislation were to pass, we are assured by affordable housing advocates, investors, syndicators, and developers that there is more than enough capacity in the market to effectively use these additional credits. In fact, the need for affordable housing throughout the country virtually assures the continued success of this program.

In addition, this legislation is a jobs creator. According to industry estimates, 112 jobs are created during the first year of construction of every 100 units of affordable housing, 46 of which morph into permanent positions. Based on that estimate, because doubling the current LIHTC would create 130,000 additional units annually, that translates into 145,600 new jobs nationally—59,800 of which would be permanent.

America is confronting an affordable housing crunch, and many hardworking men and women continue to seek employment. This legislation would make significant strides to address both problems. Therefore, I call on my colleagues to support this important measure and to ensure its consideration and passage.

#### STATEMENT IN HONOR OF THE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

**HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City. Founded in 1977 by 25 Hispanic business leaders, the Chamber was the first physical office of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Since its inception, the Chamber has worked towards the development of its members, and worked to develop strong business relationships between Hispanic and non-Hispanic businesses in Kansas City. As one of the principal advocates for Hispanic businesses in the City, the Chamber provides an invaluable resource as it helps local businesses build capacity and develop business skills. Their programming includes the how-tos of business planning, advertising, sales and marketing, procurement and certification. In today's competitive business environment, their work is more important than ever.

Today, the Chamber represents the interests of twelve-hundred Hispanic-owned businesses in Metropolitan Kansas City and currently has five-hundred members, having grown by three-hundred percent in the last three years.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Greater Kansas City, and I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to this historic organization.

HONORING ARABELLA MARTINEZ

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Arabella Martinez, a legendary figure in Oakland and throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. For almost four decades, Arabella has been a tireless advocate for community and economic development within Oakland and beyond, and the scope of her exemplary work on behalf of her community is truly unparalleled. I take pride in adding my voice to those of my constituents in honoring Arabella today on the occasion of her retirement.

A student of social welfare, Arabella received both her BA and MA from the University of California at Berkeley. After receiving her degrees she became involved with the Community Service Organization, a Latino civil rights group.

In 1967, Arabella became the first executive director to the Spanish Speaking Unity Council. She is best known for her position as CEO of this council and for developing programs to build responsibility and economic preparedness in the Latino community. During this time, she helped build this organization into a strong economic development and community organization with considerable assets.

In 1974, Arabella took an absence from her work at the Unity Council and joined the Carter administration as assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. After her term in 1980, she returned to Oakland and worked for almost a decade as the President of the Center for Policy Development.

In 1992, Arabella returned to the Spanish Speaking Unity Council and helped the organization through complex financial problems. During her second term she spearheaded the Fruitvale BART project and sponsored the Fruitvale Community Collaborative. Both of these projects were formed to bring together residents, community groups, churches, schools, merchants, and agencies to improve the quality of life for children and families in the Oakland area.

Arabella is also involved with many organizations such as the National Council of La Raza, the Drug Abuse Council, The Women's Initiative for Self-Employment, the Oakland Business Development Corporation, the Bank of America's Police Advisory Committee, the Oakland Housing Authority, the Oakland Parks and Recreation Commission and the University/Oakland Metropolitan Forum. She has received numerous awards for her work, such as the Hank Rosso Outstanding Fundraising Professional Award, the 1993 MTC Award, the David C. Lizarraga Community Development Award, and the Oakland Citizen of the Year Award.

It is clearly evident through Arabella's activism that she is an extraordinary leader, friend and advocate for her community. Her exemplary humanism is an inspiration to us all, and it with great pride that I join the Oakland community in celebrating her accomplishments. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District, I salute and thank Arabella Martinez for the truly invaluable contributions and she has made to our community, and for the example she leaves for future generations to follow.

REINTRODUCTION OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the bipartisan Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005, along with Representatives FRANK, ROSS-LEHTINEN and SHAYS. In past Congresses, this legislation has been cosponsored by almost 200 members and we expect similar support this session.

Bias crimes are disturbingly prevalent and pose a significant threat to the full participation of all Americans in our democratic society. For the year 2003, the most recently available data, the FBI compiled reports from law enforcement agencies across the country identifying 7,489 criminal incidents that were motivated by an offender's irrational antagonism toward some personal attribute associated with the victim. Law enforcement agencies have identified 9,100 victims arising from 8,715 separate criminal offenses. Racially motivated bias again accounted for more than half (51.4 percent) of all incidents. Religious bias accounted for 1,343 incidents (17.9 percent) and sexual orientation bias each accounted for 1,239 (16.6 percent) of all reported hate crimes, followed by ethnicity/national origin bias with 13.7 percent and disability bias with 0.4 percent of all incidents. While every state reported at least a small number of incidents, it is important to note that reporting by law enforcement is voluntary and it is widely believed that hate crimes are seriously under-reported.

Despite the pervasiveness of the problem, current law limits federal jurisdiction over hate crimes to incidents against protected classes that occur only during the exercise of federally protected activities, such as voting. Further, the statutes do not permit federal involvement in a range of cases where crimes are motivated by bias against the victim's perceived sexual orientation, gender, disability or gender identity. This loophole is particularly significant given the fact that four States have no hate crime laws on the books, and another 21 States have extremely weak hate crimes laws.

This legislation will make it easier for federal authorities to prosecute bias crimes, in the same way that the Church Arson Prevention Act of 1996 helped federal prosecutors combat church arson: by loosening the unduly rigid jurisdictional requirements under federal law. While ostensibly identical to past versions, this Congress the bill is more explicitly inclusive of the transgender community. In addition, we have included a provision mirroring the Washington State hate crimes statute that is designed to protect the 1st Amendment rights of the accused, without burdening the prosecution of those alleged offenses.

State and local authorities currently prosecute the overwhelming majority of hate crimes and will continue to do so under this legislation, with the enhanced support of the federal government. Through an Intergovernmental Assistance Program created by this legislation, the Justice Department will provide technical, forensic or prosecutorial assistance to State and local law enforcement officials in

cases of bias crime. The legislation also authorizes the Attorney General to make grants to State and local law enforcement agencies that have incurred extraordinary expenses associated with the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. Finally, under our bill, the Attorney General or other high ranking Justice Department officials must approve all prosecutions undertaken pursuant to this law, ensuring federal restraint, and further ensuring that the States will continue to take the lead.

Behind each of the crimes statistics cited above lies an individual or community targeted for violence for no other reason than race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, disability or gender identity. People like Waqar Hasan of Dallas, who lost his life in a post-911 backlash hate crime. His murderer admitted that he wanted to send a message to the local Arab population and beyond. These discrete communities have learned the hard way that a failure to address the problem of bias crime can cause a seemingly isolated incident to fester into wide spread tension that can damage the social fabric of the wider community.

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2005 is a constructive and measured response to a problem that continues to plague our Nation. These are crimes that shock and shame our national conscience and they should be subject to comprehensive federal law enforcement assistance and prosecution.

IN RECOGNITION OF NORMA AND BERNIE KOSTER

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pleasure to honor Norma and Bernie Koster, who will be jointly honored with the Torch of Liberty Award by the New Jersey Region of the Anti-Defamation League at the League's Bergen County Awards Reception on June 1, 2005. They are being recognized for their distinguished service on behalf of the ADL's vital mission of combating bigotry and anti-Semitism, their support for humanitarian values, dedication to nurturing their community, and working to secure its future.

Norma Wellington Koster began a career of activism as a B'Nai B'rith girl and a leader in her synagogue youth group. She subsequently became a staff producer for a local television station in the greater New York metropolitan region, where she volunteered for 19 hours on the "Rheumatism and Arthritis Association Telethon." Because of her success on that production, she was named the producer of "The World of Heart" for the American Heart Association and of two telethons for "The City of Hope", where she instituted and volunteered for their newly formed Young Leadership Division.

Norma Koster has also been deeply involved in numerous Jewish causes and charitable organizations. She founded the Single Parent Seminar at the Jewish Community Center on the Palisades, where she is now an active member of the Cultural Arts, Art, Senior, and Alzheimer's Committees and currently serves as the Tree of Life Chairperson. A Member of the Board of Trustees of the United Jewish Appeal, she is a former co-chair

of the Business and Professional Women's Division of UJA of Northern New Jersey, and was instrumental in increasing its membership. Norma Koster also has devoted herself to committees for the Jewish Home and Rehabilitation Center, Jewish Family Services, and given programs for the National Council of Jewish Women. In addition to her professional work as a successful fine jewelry designer and goldsmith, Norma is above all devoted to her children and grandchildren, her husband, and her entire family.

Like Norma, his wife of seventeen years, Bernie Koster is well-known for his leadership and unwavering commitment to the people of New Jersey, the Jewish community, and the State of Israel. He is a leading philanthropist and is active on behalf of many charitable causes and organizations. He is also a Member of the Board of Trustees of twelve separate organizations, including the UJA Federation of North Jersey, the Jewish Home at Rockleigh, Temple Emanu-El of Closter, Jewish Family Service, Gilda's Club of Northern New Jersey, the JCC of the Palisades, Englewood Hospital and Medical Center Foundation, the Bergen PAC, Israel Bonds, the Jewish Community Relations Council, the Jewish Theological Seminary, and the Anti-Defamation League itself.

Bernie Koster is also a past President of the Solomon Schechter Day School of Nassau County, New York, and co-chaired the capital campaign for his synagogue, Temple Emanu-El of Closter, where he was honored with the prestigious Shem Tov Award in 1995 for his dedicated service to the community.

Bernie Koster is also unwavering in his dedication to the State of Israel. A strong supporter of Israel Bonds, he has been appointed to the New Jersey-Israel Commission for nine years. He has visited Israel seven times, and has demonstrated through his committed and passionate work on behalf of Israel Bonds his belief that the State of Israel is the lifeblood for the survival of the Jewish people.

A highly successful attorney and real estate consultant, Bernie shares his wife Norma's dedication to faith and family. He is devoted to his children and grandchildren, and both Bernie and Norma are true exemplars of family values.

Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, I ask that you join me in recognizing Norma and Bernie Koster for their civic activism and leadership in the fight against discrimination, hatred, and anti-Semitism.

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THE AMERASIAN  
NATURALIZATION ACT

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, our immigration law has long recognized that children born outside our country to an American father and a foreign national mother are U.S. citizens as long as their fathers take necessary steps to achieve their child's citizenship.

Unfortunately, there remains a group of forgotten sons and daughters who, despite being born to American fathers, cannot take advantage of this existing provision of the law to be-

come U.S. citizens. These are the offspring of American servicemen and Asian women during the Vietnam and Korean Wars whose fathers did not take the steps of acknowledging paternity necessary to make their offspring citizens. However, the American government did that for them by acknowledging that their fathers were American citizens.

Many of these individuals have lived through devastation during war, have been mistreated by their governments because of their mixed race, and many now live in the United States, but only as legal permanent residents.

There is no doubt that Amerasians are the sons and daughters of American fathers. Our American government already made that determination when we admitted them to the United States as legal permanent residents.

To correct this unfair inequality in our law, I am introducing the Amerasian Naturalization Act, along with bipartisan cosponsors, to ensure that Amerasians are accorded U.S. citizenship just like the offspring of other American fathers are.

I hope this Congress will act swiftly and pass the Amerasian Naturalization Act. It is time for us to finally close a chapter in our history that has too long denied Amerasians the opportunity to become citizens and be recognized as the Americans that they are.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. ALEXANDER  
BAILEY

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Superintendent of Oak Park Public Schools, Dr. Alexander Bailey, who will retire June 30, 2005.

Dr. Alexander Bailey's career in education dates back to 1969 when he was a high-school teacher in Philadelphia, PA at Paul Washington High School. In subsequent years, Dr. Bailey continued his education, assumed building level responsibility as a principal, and ultimately was appointed Superintendent of Oak Park Public Schools in 1991.

Under his leadership, Oak Park Public Schools has successfully designed programs and intervention methods to meet the needs of their school population. Programs and interventions such as extended day, the Oak Park Academy, and the Literacy Academy have been critical to advancing the academic achievement of students throughout the District.

Dr. Bailey has been a very active participant in the community served by the School District. For example, Dr. Bailey was instrumental in developing the Oak Park Business Education Alliance. The Oak Park Business Education Alliance is a non-profit organization designed to build a relationship between the business community and the school district. To date, the Oak Park Business Education Alliance has provided countless volunteers for the district, over \$100,000 in scholarship monies to Oak Park students, and has provided many career development opportunities in collaboration with local businesses.

In his 36 years of service, he has been a truly committed and effective educator. Dr. Bailey dedicated his life to ensuring that stu-

dents receive a fair and equitable education. He is indeed an outstanding public servant. I have enjoyed the opportunity to work on issues of common interest with Dr. Bailey and have always appreciated his frank and forthcoming advice based on his active experiences in the school and community. One could always count on Dr. Bailey to clearly articulate the challenges faced by our school system as well as the real impact of public policy decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Alexander Bailey on his years of service and in wishing him good health and happiness in the next phase of his life.

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IN RECOGNITION OF ESSNER  
MANUFACTURING

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to recognize Essner Manufacturing and its achievement of being registered as an AS 9100 Quality Management Standard (QMS)—a designation specific to aerospace component manufacturers. This project took nearly 200 hours to complete and was a complex undertaking.

Working alongside Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC) to earn the registration, Essner is a model for other manufacturing centers. Their commitment to making quality products like precision sheet metal fabrications and machined parts is evident. I extend my congratulations to Dale R. Westerfeld, President of Essner and Dave Johnson, the TMAC Project Manager.

I am proud to represent a company that is so strongly committed to quality products and a positive work environment. I congratulate Essner Manufacturing and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

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RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT  
OF DR. STANLEY CAINE PRESIDENT OF ADRIAN COLLEGE

**HON. MIKE ROGERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the retirement of Dr. Stanley Caine, president of my alma mater, Adrian College. During his tenure at Adrian College, Dr. Caine has been, first and foremost, an advocate for his students. His open door policy has always provided an avenue for the students at Adrian College to seek his wisdom and advice. Outside of the classroom, Dr. Caine can be seen at many athletic and other campus events, a testament to his interest and dedication to the students at Adrian.

Providing a world class education requires the resources to recruit the finest faculty and provide the best facilities. During Dr. Caine's tenure, the Adrian College endowment has increased significantly and two major capital campaigns have been completed. Several new construction projects have provided students

with new facilities that offer more current technologies and student-centered spaces.

Mr. Speaker, today, more than ever, students are seeking advanced degrees, and the most successful institutions have leadership that is focused on success of their students. As President of Adrian College, Dr. Caine has been committed to that goal. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Caine's commitment and wish him all the best on his retirement.

FREEDOM FOR OMAR PERNET  
HERNÁNDEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about Omar Pernet Hernández a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Pernet Hernández is the leader of the National Movement for Human Rights. As a peaceful advocate for freedom, democracy and human rights, he has been a constant target of the totalitarian tyranny.

In March 2003, as part of Castro's condemnable crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy activists, Mr. Pernet Hernández was arrested. In a sham trial, he was sentenced 25 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Despite being confined in the abhorrent, subhuman conditions of the gulag, Mr. Pernet Hernández continues to advocate for human rights for all Cubans, including participating in a hunger strike to demand the humane treatment of political prisoners. According to Amnesty International, he is suffering from lung problems, a chronic gastric ulcer, and high blood pressure. Let us be very clear, Mr. Pernet Hernández is languishing in the gulag because of his belief in human rights.

According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004:

Prison conditions continued to be harsh and life threatening, and conditions in detention facilities also were harsh . . . Police and prison officials beat, neglected, isolated, and denied medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, including those convicted of political crimes or those who persisted in expressing their views. Political prisoners in particular often were held at facilities hundreds of miles from their families, placing an undue hardship on many families' time and financial resources.

Mr. Pernet Hernández is representative of the Cuban people's desire for liberty; despite constant harassment, despite incarceration in a grotesque gulag, he continues to fight for the inalienable human rights of the Cuban people. It is a crime against humanity that Castro's totalitarian dungeons are full of men and women, like Mr. Pernet Hernández, who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is totally unacceptable that brave men and women are locked in dungeons because they believe in freedom, human rights, and the rule of law. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Omar Pernet Hernández and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

COMMEMORATING MEMORIAL DAY

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, this weekend should serve as a time for all Americans to reflect on the great sacrifices of those who have defended our great nation and to honor the men and women who continue to protect us.

As we celebrate this Memorial Day, the thoughts and prayers of our entire country are with our troops and the families who have lost loved ones. Throughout our history, brave men and women have answered the call to duty, and their courage and dedication to protecting our democracy is an inspiration to us all. We are the beneficiaries of their bravery, and we must also be the protectors of their legacy. That is why I am proud to join many of my colleagues in cosponsoring the comprehensive New GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century.

These benefits for active duty service members, veterans, and military retirees would ensure that we fulfill our obligation to our men and women in uniform. At a time when our nation is asking more men and women to risk their lives and security on behalf of our country, we should make every effort to fulfill our promise to them upon their return.

The strength of our nation should not be measured only by our military or diplomatic might, but also by the compassion and dedication we show to those who defend us. Freedom is not free, and we honor those who have paid a price for the liberties we enjoy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to our nations' fallen heroes and honoring those who have made sacrifices in defense of the United States.

AMERICA'S NURSE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention "America's Nurse," an op-ed highlighting the importance of nurses in our country that was published in the New York Times written by Teri Mills, a constituent of mine.

[From the New York Times, May 20, 2005]

AMERICA'S NURSE

(By Teri Mills)

So, national nurses' week has come and gone and what happened? Nothing, despite estimates that by 2020 there will be 400,000 fewer nurses than are needed in this country. Drastic action is required. And here's the action I suggest: dethrone the surgeon general and appoint a National Nurse.

Here's why. Prevention is the best way to lower health care costs. If people take care of themselves and don't get sick . . . well, you know the rest. And who better to educate Americans on how to take better care of themselves than nurses?

After all, nurses are considered the most honest and ethical professionals, according to a recent Gallup poll. It's the nurse whom the patient trusts to explain the treatment ordered by a doctor. It is the nurse who

teaches new parents how to care for their newborn. It is the nurse who explains to the family how to comfort a dying loved one.

Meanwhile, the surgeon general, the nation's head doctor, is all but invisible. If you went to a supermarket and asked 10 people the surgeon general's name or to describe his or her role, it's unlikely that you would find anyone who could. (It's Richard H. Carmona, by the way.)

Now, I'm not saying that a National Nurse will become a household name immediately. But given all that's at stake—the health of a nation—and given the surgeon general's inability to connect with Americans, it seems to me that we should at least give nurses a try.

Here's what I'd have the National Nurse do. She or he would highlight health care education through 15-minute weekly broadcasts that would also be available on the Internet. The emphasis would be on prevention: how to have a healthy heart; how to raise your teenagers without going crazy; how to avoid being swept into the growing tide of obesity.

The Office of the National Nurse would yield benefits in a multitude of ways. The informational programs would decrease dependence on a health care system that is not only expensive but at times inaccessible, especially for those who lack insurance or live in rural areas. Through the office, nurses could sign up for a National Nurse Corps that would organize activities to enhance health in their communities. A National Nurse would give public recognition to the valuable work that nurses perform each day; if we're lucky, the National Nurse would help stem the nursing shortage by attracting people to the profession.

A National Nurse won't solve all of our country's health care problems, but one would definitely improve the situation. America has a history of honoring great nurses—from Clara Barton to Susie Walking Bear Yellowtail. Isn't it time we did so again?

WELCOMING NATIONAL RECORD-  
ING ARTIST RON ELLINGTON  
SHY AND HONORING HIS ACTIV-  
ISM ON BEHALF OF STARS FOR  
PEACE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and welcome Ron Ellington Shy, the musician and actor, back home to Cleveland. Ron will be at the Joseph Gallagher Middle School in Ohio's 10th Congressional District on May 27, 2005, to participate in the "Stars for Peace" rally for peace and violence prevention.

A musician, actor, and dynamic entertainer with incredible vocal ability, Ron Ellington Shy was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame as a former member of such legendary groups as "The Coasters," "The Drifters," and "Don & Dewey."

Ron was born and raised in Cleveland. He moved to California where he attended Fullerton Junior College and continued his education at the University of Southern California, majoring in psychology and minoring in music. His early career included playing professional football and achieving many accolades for his athletic abilities. He was a Golden Gloves boxing champion and holds a black belt in Karate.

As a recording artist, Ron Ellington Shy performed such memorable hits of the 1950s and 1960s as "Leavin' It All Up To You," "Jungle Hop," "Justine," "The Letter," "Farmer John," and my late colleague Sonny Bono's "Koko Joe." A gifted vocalist, Ron is also a versatile musician who plays guitar, piano, organ, saxophone, valve trombone, and harmonica. He is known for his charismatic showmanship, involving his audience as they sing along to the many classic oldies he performs in his shows. As an actor, Ron has appeared on television in such notable programs as "Dallas," "Knots Landing," and "Falcon Crest," as well as TV commercials for Right Guard deodorant, Church's Chicken, and the California Lottery.

Currently, Ron is on a national tour acting the role, and performing the music, of the late Ray Charles. Ron graciously accepted the invitation of the Joseph Gallagher Middle School, the East Cleveland Neighborhood Center, and local Hip-Hop impresario Bill "Silver B" Richards, to participate in the "Stars for Peace" rally for peace and violence prevention. Ron and the sponsors and organizers of this event understand the importance of international peace and that peace begins with each of us as individuals and in our homes.

Mr. Speaker, and Colleagues, it is my pleasure to welcome Ron Ellington Shy to Ohio's 10th District, to congratulate him on his many accomplishments, and to commend him on taking a stand in using his fame and international recognition to promote world peace and violence prevention.

FACTS SHOW CLAIMS OF INCREASED ABORTIONS OVER LAST FOUR YEARS DON'T HOLD UP

## HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, for about a year now a myth has been promoted that abortions have increased since President Bush was elected in 2000. This myth was launched publicly when Glen Stassen and Gary Krane published a piece in October of 2004, called "Why abortion rate is up in Bush years" that attempted to make the case that President Bush's pro-life policies have not been effective in decreasing abortion.

This mantra was picked up and repeated by many public figures and organizations who do not hold pro-life positions, but the facts simply do not support their claims. In fact, abortion has continued to decrease while President Bush has been in office, as demonstrated by an Annenberg Political Fact Check piece posted yesterday at [www.factcheck.org](http://www.factcheck.org) and called "Abortions rising under Bush? Not true. How that false claim came to be and lives on."

To debunk the myth that the number of abortions have increased over the last 5 years, I am submitting the Annenberg Political Fact Check analysis to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

[From the Annenberg Political Fact Check, May 25, 2005]

THE BIOGRAPHY OF A BAD STATISTIC—ABORTIONS RISING UNDER BUSH? NOT TRUE. HOW THAT FALSE CLAIM CAME TO BE —AND LIVES ON

### SUMMARY

Politicians from Hillary Clinton and John Kerry to Howard Dean have recently contended that abortions have increased since George W. Bush took office in 2001.

This claim is false. It's based on an opinion piece that used data from only 16 States. A study by the Alan Guttmacher Institute of 43 States found that abortions have actually decreased.

### ANALYSIS

A number of politicians and organizations have been circulating an interesting and surprising idea: that abortions have gone up under George W. Bush's watch. The claim is repeated by supporters of abortion rights as evidence that Bush's anti-abortion policies have backfired, or at least been ineffective.

But the claim is untrue. In fact, according to the respected Alan Guttmacher Institute, a 20-year decline in abortion rates continued after Bush took office, as shown in this graph: Source: Alan Guttmacher Institute, "Trends in Abortion in the United States"

Here's the story of how a false idea took hold.

### THE BIRTH OF A BAD STATISTIC

The claim that abortions are rising again can be traced back to an opinion piece by Glen Harold Stassen, an ethics professor at Fuller Theological Seminary. His article originally appeared in a web and e-mail publication of Sojourners, a Christian magazine, in October 2004. Several other outlets, including the Houston Chronicle, also ran a similar piece co-authored by Stassen and journalist Gary Krane. The articles generated a good deal of discussion on a number of both liberal and conservative blogs.

Describing himself as "consistently pro-life," Stassen reported that he "analyzed the data on abortion during the Bush presidency" and reached some "disturbing" conclusions. "Under President Bush, the decade-long trend of declining abortion rates appears to have reversed," he said. "Given the trends of the 1990s, 52,000 more abortions occurred in the United States in 2002 than would have been expected before this change of direction."

Stassen's broad conclusion wasn't justified by the sketchy information he cited, however. Furthermore, a primary organization he cited specifically as a source for historical data now contradicts him, saying abortions have continued to decline since Bush took office. More about that later.

### HILLARY CLINTON USES IT

Stassen offered his article as evidence that Bush's economic policies were driving pregnant women to abortion. And although he opposes abortion, his claim was soon picked up and repeated uncritically by the other side—supporters of abortion rights. In a speech to family-planning providers in New York on January 24, 2005, Sen. Hillary Clinton recounted decreases in the abortion rate that occurred in her husband's administration, then lamented that the situation had changed. She repeated exactly some of the figures that Stassen had given in his Houston Chronicle article.

Clinton: But unfortunately, in the last few years, while we are engaged in an ideological debate instead of one that uses facts and evidence and common sense, the rate of abortion is on the rise in some states. In the three years since President Bush took office, 8 states saw an increase in abortion rates

(14.6 percent average increase), and four saw a decrease (4.3 percent average), so we have a lot of work still ahead of us.

Clinton was careful not to state flatly that abortions were increasing nationally. She spoke only of "some States" in which the rate had increased. However, she omitted any mention of other States where abortions were going down, inviting her listeners to conclude that the national trend to fewer abortions had reversed itself since Bush took office.

And in fact a few days later, in an interview on NBC's Meet the Press on January 30, 2005, Senator John Kerry claimed that abortions were up, period:

Kerry: And do you know that in fact abortion has gone up in these last few years with the draconian policies that Republicans have...

A Kerry spokesman confirmed at the time to FactCheck.org that Kerry was relying on the Stassen article for his information.

Finally, as recently as May 24, 2005, Democratic National Committee chairman Howard Dean also asserted on NBC News' Meet the Press:

Dean: You know that abortions have gone up 25 percent since George Bush was President?

Dean's "statistic" went unchallenged by moderator Tim Russert, so millions of viewers probably got the impression that Dean's very specific 25 percent figure was correct. But Dean was wrong—and by a wide margin.

We asked the Democratic National Committee repeatedly where Dean got his 25 percent figure, but we got no response. Even if Stassen's estimate of 52,000 additional abortions were correct, that would figure to an increase of less than 4 percent. And in any case the rate is going down, not up, according to the most authoritative figures available.

### CHERRY-PICKING DATA

A close reading of Stassen's article makes clear that he didn't even pretend to have comprehensive national data on abortion rates. He said he looked at data from 16 States only—and didn't even name most of them.

Stassen said that in the four States that had already posted statistics for three full years of Bush's first term, he found that abortion was up. Twelve more States had posted statistics for 2 years of Bush's term—2001 and 2002—and here the picture was mixed. According to Stassen, "Eight states saw an increase in abortion rates (14.6 percent average increase), and five saw a decrease (4.3 percent average)." A version of the piece in the Houston Chronicle reported instead that four saw a decrease with a 4.3 percent average.

So Stassen was projecting findings onto the entire country from 12 States that he said had showed an increase and 5 (or maybe 4) that he said had shown a decrease. That leaves a total of 34 other States for which Stassen had no data whatsoever.

Furthermore, Stassen is contradicted by one of the very organizations whose data he cites. The only primary source of data that Stassen cites specifically in the article is the Alan Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit organization that conducts a periodic survey of all known abortion providers, which numbered nearly 2,000 at last count. Guttmacher's statistics are widely used and respected by all sides in the abortion debate. It is the only organization to compile and publish national abortion-rate data other than the federal Center for Disease Control. CDC's official statistics, however, run only through 2001, so they shed no light on what has happened since Bush took office.

And Guttmacher—as we shall see—now says abortion rates have decreased since

Bush took office. And that's based on data from 43 States, not just 16.

#### DE-BUNKING THE STATISTIC

Stassen's numbers, and the widespread acceptance they seemed to be getting, prompted the Guttmacher Institute to conduct a special analysis to update its comprehensive census of abortion providers for the year 2000. The increases that Stassen reported "would be a significant change in a long-standing trend in the U.S.," Leila Darabi of the institute explained to Factcheck.

Besides the fact that Stassen claimed to have data only from 16 States, the Guttmacher Institute said it is likely that many of the States Stassen picked have higher abortion rates historically, have a higher concentration of population subgroups that tend to have more abortions, and see abortion rates rise more quickly when they do go up. Stassen himself named only Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Colorado among the 16 States he says he studied, but his co-author on the Houston Chronicle article listed each State in a separate article posted on the Internet.

The Guttmacher Institute found that two of the States Stassen used had unreliable reporting systems. In Colorado, for instance, where Stassen claimed that rates "skyrocketed 111 percent," the reporting procedure had been recently changed in order to compensate for historic underreporting. Guttmacher also found Arizona had an inconsistent reporting system.

#### THE FACTS

The Guttmacher Institute announced its findings May 19. Guttmacher analyzed available government data "as an interim measure until another provider census can be conducted" according to a news release. The interim study analyzed data from 43 States determined to have reliable State reporting systems.

What it found was that the number of abortions decreased nationwide—by 0.8 percent in 2001 and by another 0.8 percent in 2002. The abortion rate, which is the number of women having abortions relative to the total population, also decreased 1 percent in 2001 and 0.9 percent in 2002. That's not as rapid a decrease as had been seen in earlier years, but it is a decrease nonetheless.

We give much weight to Guttmacher's analysis. Their figures are widely used and accepted by both anti-abortion groups and abortion-rights advocates. Their surveys of abortion providers go back to 1973, and Stassen cites them himself as the source for the number of abortions in 2000.

Guttmacher has little motive to make Bush and his anti-abortion policies look good. The institute was founded in 1968 in honor of a former president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and describes its mission as being "to protect the reproductive choice of all women and men in the United States and throughout the world." Had Stassen's numbers proven accurate, the Institute "would have reported and widely publicized a rise in abortion rates," said Darabi. But facts are facts.

#### THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JAMAICA TOURIST BOARD

#### HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the anniversary of an entity which has proven very important to the long standing US/

Jamaican relationship. The Jamaica Tourist Association recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. In such time it has gone about making Jamaica one of the top tourist destinations in the world. The JTA will be celebrating their anniversary throughout the year with a series of events and initiatives, and I am happy to acknowledge their accomplishments here today.

The mission of the Jamaican Tourist Board is to effectively market Jamaica's tourism sector, in an increasingly competitive global tourism industry. To date, they have succeeded not only in making Jamaica a global tourism powerhouse, but also strengthening ties between the United States and Jamaica.

The United States is the largest source of tourists to the island of Jamaica. Of the record 2.5 million international tourists to Jamaica in 2004, over one million came from the U.S. With tourism the primary foreign exchange earner for Jamaica, it is a cornerstone of the country's economic strength. That strength has translated into real benefits for the United States.

In 2004, Jamaica was the second largest destination for American exports in the Caribbean, totaling over \$1.4 billion. This is no doubt related to the purchasing power that the tourism sector affords Jamaica. As such, the work of the Jamaican Tourist Board has broad implications for both our nations.

The JTB continues to face many obstacles in developing the tourism sector. Last year's Caribbean hurricanes caused Jamaica hundreds of millions of dollars in damage. The tourism sector was not spared from the hurricanes' wrath, and is only now beginning to recover.

With that said, we in the United States must do all we can to ensure that we do not hinder the recovery, not only for Jamaica, but for the entire Caribbean. One such hindrance is the Bush Administration's proposed Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative.

I am opposed to aspects of the Initiative, due to inequities in the Initiative's implementation. As currently proposed, the initiative will require all travelers to and from the Americas, the Caribbean, and Bermuda to have a passport to enter or re-enter the United States. It is argued that the stricter policy will strengthen border security.

However, the Initiative is to be implemented in region specific phases, with travel to the Caribbean, Bermuda, and Central and South America being affected by the end of 2005, while travel to Canada and Mexico will not be affected until the end of 2006. I believe the early implementation date for the Caribbean is unfair.

With more than 50% of U.S. visitors to Jamaica not utilizing a passport when they travel, and considering that passport processing times can range up to 2 months, it can be expected that the new requirements will have an extremely negative impact on Jamaican tourism, as many U.S. tourists may choose vacation options that entail less hassle. As such, implementing new travel requirements on the Caribbean before other regions clearly warrants reconsideration.

With that said, I wish the Jamaican Tourist Board continued success, as its work will continue to be extremely important to both our nations. If the ever-increasing bond between our countries is any indication; the future success of Jamaican tourism is extremely bright.

#### OUTSTANDING ARTISTS FROM THE 11TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

#### HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I come to the floor to recognize the great success of strong local schools working with dedicated parents and teachers to raise young men and women. I rise today to congratulate and honor 44 outstanding high school artists from the 11th Congressional District of New Jersey. Each of these talented students is participating in the 2005 Annual Congressional Arts competition, "An Artistic Discovery." Their works of art are exceptional!

We have 44 students participating. That is a tremendous response, and I would very much like to build on that participation for future competitions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the three winners of our art competition, first place was awarded to Paul Niziolek from Ridge High School for his work entitled, "Shut Off;" second place was awarded to Tommy Lientitled from Livingston High School for his work entitled, "Self-Reflection;" and third place was awarded to Chris Murphy from West Morris Mendham High School for his work entitled, "Turn Away."

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize each artist for their participation by indicating their high school, their name, and the title of their contest entries for the official Record.

Pope John High School: Kaelen Barden's "Color in Time," Colleen Sullivan's "Palms," Amanda Grace's "Beach."

Roxbury High School: Ryan Jouas's "Call for Details," Laura Montoya's "Alex," Emily Schumacher for her untitled work, Melody Idakaar's "Eremos # 3."

Randolph High School: Morgan Kolenut's "I'm just mad about saffron," Maria Soshinsky's "You Shoot You Score!"

Morris Knolls High School: Cheryl Hutnikoffs "Azure Blue," Maria Nuzhdin's "NYC," Jackie Trimmer's "Lizzy," Kimberly McConnell's "Say Cheese."

Montville High School: Tyler Martin's "Entanglement," Catherine Kocses's "Give Me A Minute," Nanase Nakanishi's "Cold Winter Morning," Jenny Kong's "ST. Basil Studio."

Boonton High School: Audrey Brennan for his untitled work, Amy Salas's "Self Portrait," Alexander Della Torre's "Girls from Narnia," Jennifer Hitchings's "Old Cadillac."

Mount Olive High School: Meghan Marvin's "Waning Light," "Cassy Nickens's "Trapped Expression," Kyle Toolen's "Lunch Break," Elisa Winsze's "Riverside Wagon."

West Morris Mendham High School: Drew Koze's "March in Shadow," Chris Murphy's "Turn Away," Melissa Katie Krajewski's "Pacific Sunset," Andrew Herdren's "Atmosphere Friends."

Ridge High School: Michael Raynes's "Organ Donation," Samantha Mansfield's "Self Portrait / EEK! A mouse!," Paul Niziolek's "Shut Off," Lisa Cirelli's "Close-up Lens."

Livingston High School: David Runfol's "Swift Limits," Justine Bienkowski's "Shattered," Tommy Li's "Self-Reflection," Casey Krosser for her untitled work.

Morris Hills High School: Brian Manna's "Proud," Julie Carlsen's "Ode to Van Gogh," Patricia Doris's "Our Responsibility."



Millburn High School: Bella Manoim's "Pearberry Trees," Mary D'Alessio's "Climbing," Kate Silverman's "Childhood at a Glimpse," Gabriella Cammarata's "IL Duomo."

Each year the winner of the competition's art work is hung with other winners from across the country in a special corridor here at the U.S. Capitol. Every time a vote is called, I walk through that corridor and am reminded of the vast talents of our young men and women.

Indeed, all of these young artists are winners, and we should be proud of their achievements so early in life.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating these talented young people from New Jersey's 11th Congressional District.

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HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY  
SPECIALIST JAMES H. MILLER IV

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**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Army Specialist James H. Miller IV. As our country honors our military personnel, both past and present, this Memorial Day, I want to take this opportunity to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and security.

Army Specialist Miller leaves behind a legacy of honor, service, and compassion to his family and friends. He died protecting a polling location which allowed Iraqis the opportunity to decide their own future.

Army Specialist Miller served as a medic with the United States Army and aspired to enter the medical profession and work with trauma patients. He is remembered for his commitment to the well-being of his fellow soldiers and for his sensitivity to the needs of others. In addition, he is remembered for his love of music, and he particularly enjoyed playing the drums and guitar. Based on his reputation for compassion and commitment to the men and women he medically treated, I have no doubt he would have been effective in the medical field.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay my last respects to a young man who was so full of life; to a young man who had a full and bright future ahead of him. I pray Army Specialist Miller's family and friends find peace in their hearts, knowing his country is grateful and humbled by his sacrifice. I thank our brave men and women in uniform for continuing with our mission in Iraq, which is the ultimate tribute to our fallen soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen.

Jimmy, to you I offer my sincere gratitude and my solemn commitment to continue to support your friends, the members of your unit, and the men and women in Iraq who are continuing without you. Thank you for seeing a vision greater than yourself and for the strength of your commitment to our country. God bless you.

RECOGNITION OF MILITARY FAMILI-  
LY AND SERVICE ORGANIZA-  
TIONS ON MEMORIAL DAY

**HON. MELISSA L. BEAN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the military family organizations and veterans service organizations that do so much to support and serve the brave men and women of our Armed Forces.

This Memorial Day, Americans gather to remember the fallen, and acknowledge the contributions of our service personnel. Because of the contributions and sacrifices of our fellow Americans, we are able to enjoy the freedoms and security of this great country that we do today. We are so fortunate to live in America, and to be able to call these people our own.

On this day, our thoughts also turn to those who contribute to the needs of our men and women who wear the uniform of the United States Military.

Mr. Speaker, the family members of America's men and women in uniform have always been one of our nation's greatest assets, and often our unsung heroes. Perhaps now as much as ever, the support of our military families on the Homefront is crucial to maintaining the spirit of our warfighters.

Now, all across the country, groups of military families and their neighbors are continuing to work to support their loved ones stationed overseas. As more National Guard and Reserve units are deployed abroad, far from their homes, many of their families have organized to send much needed gifts, messages from schools, basic supplies difficult to come by in Iraq or Afghanistan, or elsewhere. These families do so generously, in addition to the extra burdens of taking care of a family while a parent is away, either out of love of their family or on the part of a serviceperson they have never met.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to recognize the work of our veterans service organizations. These patriots and committed veterans who continue to serve long after their orders have expired are the living embodiment—and the conscience—of the American spirit. And their service extends beyond the military. These groups with household names like the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars are friendly faces in our communities. Across Illinois' Eighth District, like countless other communities, these organizations provide leadership and guidance, they are a role model for our children, and they are a constant reminder of the call to—and value of—public service.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions—and sacrifices—of our military spouses and families, and the continuing service of members of America's veterans service organizations. They provide so much, so selflessly, to strengthen our military and the values we all hold so dear. America absolutely is stronger—and richer—because of their service.

IN MEMORY OF GLYNN DUNLAP

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the memory of a fellow Nevadan. Mr. Glynn Dunlap passed away at the age of eighty-three after bringing smiles to the faces of small children for the past twenty years. Glynn Dunlap became well known in the Las Vegas valley and by children across the country through his artwork and devotion to young children plagued with terminal cancer and other terminal diseases. I know that he will be missed.

Mr. Glynn Dunlap was born in Herculean, Missouri, in 1922. He later moved to California as a commercial artist and retired to Boulder City, Nevada. Upon his retirement, he and his wife begun working with mentally-challenged children. Mr. Dunlap noticed the determination and hard work in these young kids and began making certificates of achievement to honor their efforts.

After giving a certificate one day in 1985 a child approached him for a cartoon; thus began a new passion. For the next twenty years Mr. Dunlap drew cartoons for any child who asked. Shortly after he began drawing for children, Mr. Dunlap joined forces with such organizations as the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the Candlelighters. His son, Don Dunlap, said he dedicated so much time to those kids because it brought joy to those who were suffering; he did it "to see a kid smile."

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today to extend my gratitude for Mr. Dunlap's many contributions and to honor the wonderful memory of this excellent role model. I know that Mr. Glynn Dunlap will be missed, but not forgotten, especially by all the families he helped cope during some of the most difficult times in their lives.

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MOURNING THE PASSING OF  
JIMMY PETTYJOHN, JR.

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**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sympathy that I rise today to mourn the passage of Mr. Jimmy Pettyjohn, Jr. and to pay special respect to the family he left behind at his untimely passing on April 28, 2005.

Mr. Pettyjohn embodied the definition of a leader and statesman, leaving an indelible mark on the Southern Nevada Community. Indeed, the contributions he made throughout his life stand as a simple symbol of humility and integrity to those who will examine his life and seek to emulate his spirit of service.

Mr. Pettyjohn affected many people in so many positive and uplifting ways from his varied and personal contributions to such groups as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the Las Vegas Southwest chapter of Rotary International, the Boys Scouts of America and the youth golf organization First Tee of Southern Nevada to his endless dedication as owner of his own insurance business. Through these organizations and countless other

causes, one can clearly see how great and generous a person he was and how much a void his absence will be to the Las Vegas Community.

Mr. Pettyjohn is survived by his wife, Gina; daughters, Ashton and Cheyanne; sons, Jimmy C. III and Chazton; father Coy; mother Sonya; sisters, Patty Lattuga and Pam Gardineer, both of Henderson; and brothers, Jaime of Jupiter, Fla. and Jerry of Henderson. Truly, I will miss his friendship and his presence will be missed by all who knew and loved him or simply had the opportunity to meet him.

## EXAMINING EFFORTS TO ERADICATE HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, May 12, 2005, I chaired a Capitol Hill briefing, "Sex Trafficking in Eastern Europe: Belarus, Moldova, and Ukraine," conducted for the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. The Caucus heard testimony from a number of excellent witnesses regarding current efforts in Eastern Europe to combat human trafficking for forced economic or sexual exploitation.

Since the late 1990s, I have worked to eradicate trafficking in the United States and around the world. As Co-Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe and as Special Representative on Human Trafficking for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), I have given particular attention to the situation in the 55 OSCE participating States, which include source, transit and destination countries for victims of trafficking, such as Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. The United States has been a solid supporter of the OSCE's role in generating the political will—and programmatic responses—necessary to stop trafficking in Europe and Eurasia.

Among those briefing the Congressional Human Rights Caucus was Michele Clark, Head of the OSCE's Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit in Vienna, Austria, and previously Co-Director of The Protection Project at Johns Hopkins University. Ms. Clark is a dedicated and knowledgeable anti-trafficking advocate. Her recognized expertise on human trafficking issues led to her appointment at the OSCE in which she is now at the forefront of the anti-trafficking movement in Europe.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Ms. Clark's prepared statement from the briefing be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Her statement was both visionary and practical and challenges all of us—Members of Congress and representatives of governments alike—to take bold, definitive steps to eradicate modern day slavery. Ms. Clark's statement also encourages us, and I believe rightly so, to evaluate carefully whether our current programs and strategies are effectively meeting that challenge.

TESTIMONY OF MICHELE A. CLARK, HEAD, ANTI-TRAFFICKING ASSISTANCE UNIT, ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE: SEX TRAFFICKING IN EASTERN EUROPE: MOLDOVA, UKRAINE, BELARUS

### INTRODUCTION

I am Michele Clark, Head of the Anti-Trafficking Assistance Unit at the Organization

for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna, Austria. The OSCE has a long history of combating all forms of human trafficking, including trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation as well as forced and bonded labor within the framework of prevention, prosecution and protection. A unique characteristic of the OSCE's Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings is the recognition of human trafficking as a complex, multidimensional issue with far reaching security implications. Consequently, the Action Plan enjoins all of the OSCE institutions and structures, including the Strategic Police Matters Unit and the Office of the Coordinator for Economic and Environmental Activities, as well as the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, to work together toward combating trafficking in human beings.

I appreciate the opportunity to address you today on the status of Trafficking in Human Beings in Eastern Europe with a focus on the countries of Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine. I would like to thank you, members of the Human Rights Caucus, for your sustained commitment to this noble cause and for keeping informed of the most current issues, trends and challenges. The OSCE looks forward to being of assistance to you in any way we can, and to continuing our good work together.

The movement to Combat Trafficking in Persons is poised to become one of the most significant human rights movements in the past two hundred years, but it isn't there yet. I say this very carefully. For, notwithstanding the central position that human trafficking has occupied on the world stage for the past five years, the tragic, graphic stories by print and broadcast media, the high level of political visibility and, last but far from least, the hundreds of millions of dollars and Euros made available by donor countries, trafficking in human beings is in fact a growth industry. Obviously, this statement begs the question, "Why?" I would like to devote the bulk of my testimony today to providing some thoughts that might prove beneficial to policy makers as well as practitioners as we all attempt to "get it right." I would like to begin with a real-life story.

### MARIANA AND JANA

A year and a half ago, I went to Moldova. Although I went there to participate in an international conference, one of my personal goals was to visit with a family I had only heard about, but wanted very much to meet. Four months earlier, the eldest daughter, a beautiful young woman in her early twenties and herself the mother of a three-year-old daughter, tragically killed herself, by hanging in the country where she had been trafficked, abused, finally imprisoned as she waited to participate in the prosecution of her traffickers. I do not apply the word, "rescue" to such circumstances. She worked with the law enforcement officials of that country and her testimony resulted in a conviction and stiff sentence. The only option available to her, at the end of the legal proceedings, was return to her country, and for that she was asked to pay \$80 for her travel documents. Return to what, however? A job that would pay about 30 dollars a month? A home without a father, because hers was absent 8 months of the year, a migrant worker in Western European countries, trying to make money to send home? For her daughter, a life with prospects not much different than her own? Rather than return to a future with no hope, Mariana as I will call her now, ended her own life.

Her body was flown to Moldova, where she was buried. An international organization there as well as an NGO in the destination country contributed to the transport of the

body and to the funeral costs. I went to see her mother, younger sister Jana, and her daughter Victoria. We spent many hours together over several days, but the family did not want to talk about Mariana—although everyone knew what had happened to her. The stigma of Mariana's life as a trafficked woman was a great burden for the family. Coupled with the suicide, it was too much to bear. There were no visible pictures of her in the home but I finally asked to see photos. The mother warmed to us then and for a few moments we all wept together as women and as friends. All except for little Victoria who continued to express anger that her mother came home in a box and that she was not allowed to see her.

In particular, I was deeply moved by the younger sister, Jana, and became concerned for her future. Blonde (as much as it pains me, there is a stereotype), bright-eyed and quite lovely, she asked eagerly about life in the United States and wondered if I could help her get there. I thought, how easily swayed she would be by anyone who offered her a situation similar to her sister's. For weeks her image would not leave me and I made some inquiries, unwilling to accept that her plight had to be the same as her sister's. Was there in fact no hope for her? I learned that a year of university would cost about \$USD 500; she would then need money for supplies and fees, and income to supplement the money she was making in a candy factory. I engaged with a social worker there, part of a large organization that assisted trafficked women. I asked them, what could happen, and what were the options? It took a long time to get answers, because the social workers have very little capacity to assist victims, or potential victims, to find long-term solutions, the focus being primarily on emergency care. Finally I was told that Jana could be sent to hairdressing school, and that she would receive assistance with job placement after she left. However, there was no money, not even the small sum \$800 that would take care of all costs. Together with a few friends, we paid for Jana to go to school, and learn a trade. I was deeply disappointed at how few options were available and by the lack of attention to the long term. Parenthetically, I must say how exasperated I get when I hear that vocational training for trafficked women consists of beauty school. This is certainly a fine trade, but how many beauticians can small countries support? Another important fact is that many of these women are intelligent and resourceful, and would do well in business or any of the other professions.

To summarize this story, I would like to quote my colleague Antonia DeMeo, who is the Human Rights and Senior Anti-Trafficking officer at the OSCE Mission to Moldova: "If the economic situation in Moldova would improve, then I believe that the trafficking problem would decrease. People are looking for work and money, and better opportunities for the future, and will take significant risks to get them. [While working in the Balkans] I saw numerous asylum and residency petitions filed by Moldovans and none of them wanted to return to Moldova. Why? Because they saw no future there. You can provide them with all the counseling you want—it will not solve the problem of creating a viable future."

### CHARACTERISTICS OF COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Today we are talking about three different countries: Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine. I would like to identify common elements among each of these countries in an effort to assist our policy and programmatic initiatives.

These three countries are among the top ten countries of origin for trafficking for

prostitution in the world, according to a United Nations report dated May 2003. It is interesting here to note that these countries have all undertaken serious efforts towards legislative reform to address trafficking in human beings. Laws alone do not stop trafficking, although they are a necessary place to start.

These countries share many of the same routes, and many of the same countries of destination, including but not limited to Italy, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Czech Republic, Belgium, Switzerland, Sweden, Greece, France, Finland, the Netherlands, Hungary, Poland and the United States.

These countries are primarily countries of origin for women trafficked for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation. However, recent studies of trafficking patterns in these countries indicate new trends, notably trafficking of children (boys and girls), trafficking for labor, and the development of local sex tourism. This particular trend is very unsettling. The sex tourism is a by-product of coveted commercial development necessary to the betterment of the collapsing economic infrastructures.

Numbers of trafficked persons are very difficult to come by, with most information being provided by countries of destination. Victim identification remains inadequate.

Most trafficked persons return to the same conditions which initially compelled them to seek employment elsewhere. The hardship is compounded, however, by the fact that they are often stigmatized as a result of their trafficking experiences. Furthermore, criminal status that ensues from being considered an illegal immigrant, or being in possession of fraudulent documentation further marginalizes these women and shuts them out of the formal economy.

Overall, there is a lack of protection and re-integration programs for returning trafficked persons. Most programs provide short term assistance only and are not equipped to provide long-term support to trafficked persons. Failure in identification of trafficked persons and the subsequent dearth of long-term assistance appear to be factors which contribute to re-trafficking.

Each country has experienced a period of great political instability.

#### CHALLENGES TO COMBATING TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS

I believe that both countries of origin and of destination have a responsibility for providing protection and assistance to victims of trafficking, for the plight of women like Mariana, and to ensure that Jana, and even Victoria, will be able to contemplate a future with options and possibilities, much in the way all of us in this room approach the future.

In countries of origin, root causes need to be considered. These run very deep, and comprise social and economic push factors that drive women to seek employment overseas, including the absence of alternatives, the social stigma that leaves trafficked persons marginalized, and the on-going need to provide financial assistance to their families. It is also necessary to consider wide-spread corruption, the lack of a human rights approach, mistrust towards the police and judiciary, the absence of a tradition to resolve issues through court procedures, lack of co-operation between the State and the civil society, widely spread distrust towards NGOs as foreign agents and representatives of political opposition, inadequate funding for the implementation of anti-trafficking programs and projects, lack of co-operation with countries of destination. This list goes on.

Countries of destination, on the other hand,—and this includes us—will have to

concretely recognize that they create the demand which encourages human trafficking and enables organized criminal groups to generate billions of dollars annually in tax-free revenue at the cost of human misery. Furthermore, countries of destination need to develop humane and compassionate approaches to victim identification, victim protection, and long-term victim assistance. Successful reintegration begins at the country of destination.

After making this distinction, I personally believe that it is no longer adequate to talk about solutions, policies and practices directed exclusively towards countries of origin and destination, for these countries are in fact linked by very complex relationships that include financial institutions, border and immigration police, law enforcement, the tourist and transportation industry, and other equally significant commercial and professional enterprises. To address only a country of origin without looking at where the reward comes from for criminal activity is an incomplete approach, and will therefore yield incomplete results. Regional approaches to combating trafficking in persons, linking countries of destination and origin, have the best potential for arriving at comprehensive and systemic solutions.

In addition to the challenge of complex political and commercial relationships mentioned above, I would like to talk briefly about the great challenge of victim identification, underscoring why there is such urgency in addressing this topic. From 1 January 2000 to 31 December, 2004, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and other nongovernmental organizations assisted 1,464 trafficking victims to return to Moldova, and this number includes 81 minors. In 2004, one destination country alone documented repatriation of 1,774 Moldovan women. These women were listed as illegal immigrants; however, human rights groups in this country attest that the majority of Moldovan women who are arrested for violations of immigration laws are victims of trafficking. Similar discrepancies can be found among the other countries we are talking about. In one year, one country reported more Moldovan women than other reports claim were helped in five years. These discrepancies require our serious consideration. Why the discrepancy? What needs to be changed in order for women to seek out assistance? Are the right groups providing the assistance so that trafficked persons feel protected? Is the assistance appropriate to the need?

#### POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Here I would like to ask two more questions:

(1) What about the present? Are we really making progress? If trafficking, as all indicators tell us, is in fact a growth industry, then what do we not know? What are we getting wrong? What in fact is the real impact of anti-trafficking funding?

(2) What about the future? Are our current efforts helping to lay a foundation that will enable prevention, protection and prosecution to continue after donor funds have decreased?

I am particularly concerned about the need to think about investing in the creation of sustainable grass roots initiatives as opposed to reactive project development. The question of funding is of particular concern to me right now. Wealthy nations have responded generously both by making funds available and by elevating this issue to one of high political visibility. But let us be realistic. History shows us that in time, another world crisis will capture world attention as well as money, even though human trafficking itself will not disappear. Will there be organiza-

tions, movements, trained personnel in rural communities, small towns and big cities who will be able continue to pressure their governments and work to assist individuals?

Let us look again at Moldova. This small country with a population of barely 4 million people is now receiving between \$USD 10M–12M over several years to combat trafficking in persons. Here are some questions we need to think about, not only for Moldova, but for all countries receiving large amounts of external assistance.

To what extent are these funds actually reaching trafficked persons or developing grass roots capacity?

To what extent are these funds being invested to ensure sustainable anti-trafficking initiatives?

To what extent is there coordination among donors to ensure that there are no duplicated efforts?

Who is around the table at these coordinating meetings? Are the right partners present in order to make sure that these efforts are able to continue into the future, long after grant money has decreased?

Are the faith communities involved? It is well known at this time that faith communities have the capacity to reach trafficked persons which are normally outside of the grasp of other organizations; this comes from the fact that they are closely linked to the communities and have the trust of the local populations—including the trust of trafficked persons.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Coordinate initiatives of major donors to ensure that there will be no duplication of efforts, and that there will be monitoring of grant activities.

Make sure that grants provide for a broad representation of local NGOs.

Make sure that funded projects ensure provision of benefits directly to individuals and to the empowerment of small local NGOs. Many budgets give only token amounts to local initiatives while having large budgets for travel and foreign consultants. This is the time to develop the grass roots work force.

Develop existing capacity and cultivate potential/future capacity. Are there sufficiently trained service professionals? Do countries' economic development plans foresee the training of new members of the work force taken from returning trafficked persons?

Develop a long-term perspective to finding long-term solutions rather than only addressing immediate needs.

Give priority to programs that work towards social inclusion—the forgotten stepchild of the anti-trafficking movement. Make reintegration a long-term policy.

Members of the Human Rights Caucus, I will end where I began, challenging us to consider that we could be part of the greatest human rights movement of the past two hundred years, with a legacy of freedom, redemption and hope that will serve as a model for generations to come. Do we have the courage, the discipline, and the wisdom to make it happen? May it be so. Thank you.

#### THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE CARIBBEAN

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, there has been significant debate in recent years regarding the chances of the developing world reaching

the Millennium Challenge Goals (MCG). Reaching the goals will be a trying task, but some regions of the world seem to be making satisfactory progress. The Caribbean is one such region that has high hopes for success in this important endeavor.

On the occasion of a recent Inter-American Development Bank seminar on the issue of the Millennium Challenge Goals, Dame Billie Miller, Minister of Foreign Affairs for the island of Barbados, wrote an informative May 3rd Op-Ed which describes the prospects and challenges facing the Caribbean in regards to achieving the Millennium Challenge Goals.

Dame Miller's overall view is that the Caribbean's progress to date has been very promising. Indeed, the United Nations Development Program's Regional Report for the Caribbean gives a rather bright prognosis for the majority of the Caribbean's nations in their MGD progression. However, some countries continue to face significant obstacles.

For example, Haiti remains mired in political instability and economic impoverishment. Though it contains 50 percent of the Caribbean's population it is the region's poorest country. The nation of Guyana, though blessed with abundant natural resources, is saddled with an extremely high ratio of debt, making it the Caribbean's only Highly Indebted Poor Country.

Despite the Caribbean's overall progress, Dame Miller emphasizes that there remains threats to the region which must be accounted for. Most pressing is the region's ongoing vulnerability to natural disasters.

We are all aware of the calamity the Caribbean region faced in 2004 due to Hurricanes Charley, Frances, and Ivan, and Tropical Storm Jeanne, which caused billions of dollars in damage. Thousands lost their lives, and the region's tourism and agricultural sectors, on which so many islands depend, was battered. The production of major agricultural exports for many countries is still on hold several months later. The Caribbean in concert with its neighbors, like the United States, must continue to address the issue of disaster response and mitigation. With efficient and functioning systems in place, these disasters need not be so devastating to the region.

Dame Miller also emphasizes the region's need to broaden access to education, as well as information and communications technology, for all its residents. Doing so will help to spur the economic development of the region, and also allow for the greater participation of the Caribbean population in civic and political life.

She also stresses the importance of the region's continuing efforts at regional economic integration. In the face of increasing globalization and trade liberalization, Dame Miller argues that the Caribbean must solidify their economic and trade ties, in route to a Caribbean Single Market Economy, which would remove all barriers to trade, capital movement, and technology and manpower transfer. Dame Miller foresees such an integration being achieved by 2006.

I sincerely thank Dame Miller for her insightful opinions. She reminds us, that while the Caribbean will undoubtedly face challenges in its socio-economic evolution, its dedication to addressing these challenges, and its ability to harness its immense potential, will ultimately determine its future success.

[From the New York Carib News, May 3, 2005]  
CARIBBEAN MAY DEFTY "OVERWHELMING ODDS"—AS REGION SEEKS TO IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARDS IN CHALLENGING TIMES

In this first decade of the 21st century, in a post 9/11, post Enron World the time seems hardly propitious for the removal of obstacles to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals nor the realization of the 0.7 percent of overseas Development Assistance Commitment.

Progress (towards the achievement of the Millennium Goals set by the world's leaders summit in 2000) has been far from uniform across the world—or for that matter across the Goals. There are large disparities across and within countries. In terms of priorities for attention, the developing world is divided into well-organized categories: the LDC's (less developed countries), of which Haiti is the only member in the Caribbean, although with a population of 8 million, it accounts for over 50 percent of the 14 million citizens of the Caribbean Community, or Caricom, as it is known; the HIPC (highly indebted poor) countries, of which Guyana, the seat of the Caricom secretariat, is the only one among the Caricom states; and finally, the poorest of the poor. Small, middle incomes, mostly island countries, are, as we would say in the Caribbean, neither fish, fowl nor good red herring. We are therefore acutely aware that self-reliance and national and sub-regional actions will be the defining imperative in our efforts to achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, MDGs.

In that respect, and defying the overwhelming odds, the prognosis for the achievement of the MDGs in the Caribbean is very promising. In fact, the United Nations Development Program's Regional Report on the matter gives an optimistic outlook for most of our countries in respect of at least six of the eight goals. But the region faces a number of challenges to the achievement of the Goals.

Foremost among them is the vulnerability to economic shocks, and to every natural disaster known to humankind, be it hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, mudslides, earthquakes or flood.

The catastrophic hurricane season of 2004 had a grave impact on the socio-economic development prospects of many of the small islands of the Caribbean. Decades of painstaking human and financial investment in social development, representing several years' worth of gross domestic product were lost in a matter of hours.

The devastating Indian Ocean tsunami in December serves as a stark reminder of the vulnerability of many developing nations to natural disasters.

Globalization, education, information and communication technology all offer the potential for reducing social exclusion by creating economic conditions for greater prosperity through higher levels of growth and employment, and by providing new avenues for community participation.

Conversely, there is the risk of an ever-widening gap between those who have and control the resources, the capital and knowledge of the global economy and those who are excluded. The challenge for all of us is to fashion policies, which reduce this risk and maximize this new potential. Various studies in Latin American and the Caribbean have shown that even in the presence of steady rates of economic growth, a reduction of inequality is not guaranteed. Clearly, the solution does not lie exclusively in wealth creation.

Globalization has brought tremendous benefits to significant portions of the world, but at the same time, large sections of the world

have experienced far too few of its benefits, while others still, particularly in the poorest countries, remain totally marginalized. Many feel threatened by the way these processes have affected their communities, endangering their jobs and widening the gap between rich and poor. For them globalization has not delivered on the promises of vast development opportunities on a global scale, nor has it lessened the prevalence of economic disparities and social injustice.

For the Caribbean, the only sensible response to globalization and trade liberalization, and to the inevitable disappearance of trade preferences has been to expedite the deepening of the Caricom integration process. At this time, the members of the Caribbean Community are fully engaged in the most ambitious of endeavors to consolidate our market place and economic space through the implementation of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, CSME, which provides for the removal of barriers to trade, goods, services, movement of capital, technology and skilled persons and also to the establishment of letterpresses. We expect that the CSME will be fully operational by 2006, making us the only integrated region, apart from the European Union to achieve such a status, and readying us to better access the global market process.

#### HONORING LAKE HOPATCONG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lake Hopatcong Historical Society, in my Congressional District. The Historical Society is celebrating fifty years of protecting documents and artifacts for the community and promoting education and historic preservation.

The actual creation of the Lake Hopatcong Historical Society occurred on August 10, 1955, at the Langdon Arms Restaurant with eight people in attendance. From the beginning, the members' goal was to establish a museum for the lake.

From the original eight individuals who attended the first meeting in 1955, the society grew to 150 members by the time the museum opened in 1965. In the early 1960's the state of New Jersey moved forward with plans for a new administration building at Hopatcong State Park. The park was on land which was previously owned by the Morris Canal and Banking Company. When the canal was abandoned in the 1920's, the 98 acres around the Lake Hopatcong dam were set aside as a state park.

Today, with nearly 800 members, the organization continues to follow its mission "to collect, house and preserve artifacts and documents relating to the civil, political, social and general history of Lake Hopatcong and to encourage the education and dissemination of information about Lake Hopatcong's history."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues in the House of Representatives join with me in congratulating the Lake Hopatcong Historical Society, its trustees and all of its outstanding members and volunteers, upon celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARINE  
LANCE CORPORAL DUSTIN R.  
FITZGERALD

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Marine Lance Corporal Dustin R. Fitzgerald. As our country honors our military personnel, both past and present, this Memorial Day, I want to take this opportunity to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and security.

Lance Corporal Fitzgerald leaves behind a legacy of compassion and leadership. His family and friends remember him as a mentor who was truly inspirational in helping the people he loved reach their full potential. They remember his pride in being a Marine, his willingness to go beyond the call of duty to assist the members of unit, and his joy and laughter.

Lance Corporal Fitzgerald had aspirations to be a lawyer, and his interest and enthusiasm are a source of inspiration to the lives he touched. Based on his reputation for being hard-working and committed to fulfilling his responsibilities, I have no doubt he would have been an effective lawyer.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay my last respects to a young man who was so full of life; to a young man who had a full and bright future ahead of him. I pray Lance Corporal Fitzgerald's family and friends find peace in their hearts, knowing his country is grateful and humbled by his sacrifice. I thank our brave men and women in uniform for continuing with our mission in Iraq, which is the ultimate tribute to our fallen soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen.

Dustin, to you I offer my sincere gratitude and my solemn commitment to continue to support your friends, the members of your unit, and the men and women in Iraq who are continuing without you. Thank you for seeing a vision greater than yourself and for the strength of your commitment to our country. God bless you.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF CHIEF  
JOSEPH MARVIN OF THE WOOD-  
STOCK, ILLINOIS POLICE DE-  
PARTMENT

**HON. MELISSA L. BEAN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. BEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Chief Joseph Marvin and his twenty-seven years of service to the Woodstock Police Department in Woodstock, Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Marvin has been intricately involved in community building programs for over two decades. He has served as the Coordinator of Community Services and Chairman of the Crime Prevention Committee in Woodstock. These programs and his involvement in them have improved the lives for generations of Woodstock residents.

Serving his community as a police officer gave him the awesome responsibility to be a first responder, community leader and a role

model for his family, friends and neighbors. I know that in his retirement he will continue to have a lasting impact and positive influence on the City of Woodstock. I would like to thank him for his service to and presence in the community and wish him the best of luck in his much-deserved retirement.

Also, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of all police officers like Chief Martin who selflessly work for the good and of their communities, giving of themselves so that we may all enjoy the peace and safety they provide.

HONORING THE ALTO LADY  
JACKETS

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Alto Lady Jackets track team who won the Texas 2A High School Track Championship on May 14, 2005. For the third time in three years, the Lady Jackets went down to Austin and returned home with the State Championship trophy.

I would like to recognize teammates Tiffany Hart, Angelitha Dickerson, Monique Hackney, Tashekia Mitchell, Kindal Baugh, Taneshia Pope, Tiffany Griffin, Margo Kahla, and Coaches Mildred Brown and Shaniqua Redd. The outstanding team performance of the Alto Lady Jackets was highlighted by gold medals in the 800 and 16,000-meter relays and a silver medal in the 400-meter relay. Additionally Monique Hackney took gold in the long jump, setting a new class 2A record in the process.

As the congressional representative of the families, coaches, and supporters of the Alto Lady Jackets, it is my pleasure to recognize their tremendous victory and outstanding season. This is an accomplishment that these young women will remember for the rest of their lives.

HONORING THE CANTON ROTARY  
CLUB

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to commemorate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. On February 23, 2005, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary International has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders whose mission is to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges, and encourage community service.

I also want to provide special recognition to an important member of this outstanding organization, the Rotary Club of Canton, Texas, for their twelve years of service to Van Zandt County. Throughout its twelve year history, the

Canton Rotary Club has achieved great successes in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

In past years, the Canton Rotary Club has raised money to provide scholarships to local students and sponsored programs to improve area literacy. In addition, the Canton Rotary Club has been active in Rotary International's Polio Plus program.

Through these actions, the Rotary Club of Canton, Texas, has exemplified the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to be able to honor them today on the floor of the United States House of Representatives.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-  
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1815) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Taylor Motion to Re-commit today on the issue of providing full TRICARE to all members of the Guard and Reserve and their families. I am most outraged by the fact that there will be no consideration of the Taylor amendment on TRICARE for reservists as well as the Salazar amendment on ending the Military Families Tax and the Marshall amendment on ending the Disabled Veterans Tax. These amendments are three key provisions in the GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century, which House Democrats unveiled in March. It seems blatant, that the Rules Committee would not allow the full body to consider these vital amendments which could have greatly strengthened this Defense Authorization.

My colleague Mr. TAYLOR's amendment would have provided full TRICARE to all members of the Guard and Reserve and their families. Currently, the Guard and Reserve are covered by TRICARE only when they are mobilized for active duty. Under the Taylor amendment, all members of the Guard and Reserve could buy into TRICARE for an affordable monthly premium. The Taylor amendment was in fact adopted by the Armed Services Committee by a vote of 32 to 30. However, after the mark-up, Chairman HUNTER stripped the amendment from the bill based on a violation of the Budget Act, instead of allowing Representative TAYLOR to make a slight modification to his amendment which would have addressed the violation. It is the slightly modified version that Representative TAYLOR had sought the Rules Committee to make in order and which the Rules Committee has egregiously rejected for consideration. It is a travesty indeed because this amendment could have done so much good for so many Guardsmen and Reservists.

The simple fact is that more than 433,000 of our National Guard and Reserves have been

called up over the past two and one-half years. Reserve Components make up almost 50 percent of our forces in Iraq. It is time that we as a body recognize their service to our nation by providing TRICARE for Reserve Component personnel on a permanent basis. It is disgraceful that this Congress will not demonstrate the level of commitment for its citizen-soldiers that they so richly deserve.

I know how TRICARE is insufficient for our men and women fighting abroad, I've talked to many of them in my district and it's sad that we can't provide them with the support they need when they are the ones making the ultimate sacrifice. The cuts to TRICARE over the years are despicable and soon we will have almost nothing to offer our men and women fighting abroad in the area of domestic care. Among those in Houston who have been brave enough to serve is Texas State Representative Rick Noriega who is with the Texas Army National Guard. He has served as state representative for District 145 for 6 years and when he was called to duty in Afghanistan he went to serve his nation, truly an inspiration to many. However, he left behind a wife and two children, who were proud, but unfortunately they were left with insufficient coverage by TRICARE. His family has suffered harsh treatment because they demanded more from TRICARE and weren't receiving it. Their story is not uncommon throughout the nation. Many doctors won't accept TRICARE because it is inadequate. The sad fact is that 20 percent of all Reservists do not have health insurance, and 40 percent of Reservists aged 19 to 35 lack health coverage according to a 2003 report by the General Accounting Office. According to the latest Defense Department data, 18 percent of activated Reservists have no medical coverage. These facts are deplorable, I pray for families like State Representative Noriega's and others who don't have access to sufficient care. How can we say that we are proud of our men and women fighting abroad when we can't even care for them and their families when they return to this nation of ours?

I can only hope in the future that such significant legislation as this will involve the debate and full consideration of all necessary and relevant amendments. The men and women of our Armed Forces and indeed the American people as a whole deserve as much. Again, I rise in full support of the Taylor Motion to Recommit and consider this truly vital amendment on TRICARE.

#### HONORING THE TEN TOWNS GREAT SWAMP WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee of Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant organization I am proud to represent! On June 15, 2005 the Trustees and Friends of the Committee are celebrating its Tenth Anniversary.

The Great Swamp Watershed is a 55 square mile region in Morris and Somerset Counties and includes portions of

Bernardsville Borough, Bernards Township, Chatham Township, Township of Harding, Long Hill Township, Borough of Madison, Mendham Borough, Mendham Township, the Town of Morristown, and Morris Township.

The Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee was formed in 1995 through an Inter-municipal Cooperative Agreement among the ten municipalities that have lands within the Great Swamp Watershed. Developed under the auspices of the Morris County leadership group, Morris 2000 (now Morris Tomorrow), the Ten Towns Committee was formed for the specific purpose of developing and implementing a watershed management plan for the watershed in the Upper Passaic River basin of northern New Jersey.

Since its formation, the Ten Towns Committee has developed a full range of programs to protect water quality and water resources in the Great Swamp, including: a water quality monitoring program, development of environmental ordinances, and construction of "Best Management Practices" improvements to correct existing non-point source pollution conditions.

The Ten Towns Committee has been recognized as a model in the state of New Jersey and has received awards for its work from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

It has also been my pleasure on several occasions to assist the Association with Federal support which enhances their critical work that both protects this remarkable national asset, the Great Swamp, and protects, for future generations, precious water supplies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the members of the Ten Towns Great Swamp Watershed Management Committee on the celebration of the Committee's ten years serving the Great Swamp Watershed area. Special praise is due to their dedicated staff and active volunteers who work tirelessly to protect and enhance the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness Area.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY SERGEANT CHARLES J. WEBB

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Army Sergeant Charles J. Webb. As our country honors our military personnel, both past and present, this Memorial Day, I want to take this opportunity to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and security.

Sergeant Webb leaves behind the most important legacy any man can leave: a strong and healthy family who knows he loved them with all his heart. His love and commitment to his wife Stephanie is the best testament to his character and to his heart.

Sergeant Webb had aspirations to be a high school History Teacher. He is remembered as a loyal and committed soldier, and I have no doubt he would have extended his sense of duty and commitment to the teaching profession and would have been an effective and motivating teacher.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay my last respects to a young man who was so full of life; to a young man who had a full and bright future ahead of him. I pray Army Sergeant Webb's family and friends find peace in their hearts, knowing his country is grateful and humbled by his sacrifice. I thank our brave men and women in uniform for continuing with our mission in Iraq, which is the ultimate tribute to our fallen soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen.

Charles, to you I offer my sincere gratitude and my solemn commitment to continue to support your friends, the members of your unit, and the men and women in Iraq who are continuing without you. Thank you for seeing a vision greater than yourself and for the strength of your commitment to our country. God bless you.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, because of family illness I missed the following votes: On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #190, On Ordering the Previous Question; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2361) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #191, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Hefley of Colorado Amendment; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #193, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Terry of Nebraska Amendment; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #194, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Obey of Wisconsin Amendment No. 2; I would have voted "yea."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #195, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Beauprez of Colorado Amendment; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #196, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Rahall of West Virginia Amendment; I would have voted "yea."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #197, On Agreeing to the Amendment to H.R. 2361; the Hefley of Colorado Amendment; I would have voted "nay."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #198, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions; for H.R. 2361 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006; I would have voted "yea."

On May 19, 2005 on rollcall vote #199, On Passage; for H.R. 2361 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2006; I would have voted "yea."



150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY BETWEEN THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

**HON. GREG WALDEN**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty between the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the United States Government. I am proud to represent the people of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Congress and am always warmly welcomed when I visit the reservation.

Mr. Speaker, since time immemorial, the people of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have lived on the Columbia River Plateau. Specifically, their homeland is the area now known as north-eastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. The Umatilla Tribes currently have over 2,446 tribal members who continue to care for and live on the land of their ancestors.

On May 28, 2005, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla will gather to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the treaty they signed with the United States Government. For the members of the Umatilla tribes this is an opportunity to remember and honor their ancestors who signed the treaties and to educate their youth and the public about these important documents.

I think it is fitting as we near the anniversary of this treaty to share with my colleagues a little bit of the history of the treaty signing. For nearly three weeks in late May and June of 1855, thousands of Native Americans from the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Tribes, along with the Nez Perce, Yakama and some bands of the Colville, all convened in the Walla Walla Valley, Washington Territory for a historic treaty council. During this three-week period the tribes met and negotiated with Washington Territory Governor Isaac Stevens and Superintendent for Indian Affairs of Oregon Territory Joel Palmer.

The agreement that came from this three-week negotiation has been the guiding document between the Umatilla, Cayuse, and Walla Walla people with the United States Government for the past 150 years and thus the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, Yakama, and Nez Perce Reservations were created.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have a long history of strong leadership and continue to preserve their traditional cultures and languages. Their leaders were among the most influential negotiators at the Treaty Council 150 years ago and today the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla are regarded as outstanding leaders within Indian Country.

Their leadership and innovative economic endeavors help lead the way in eastern Oregon and in Indian Country. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation determine their own futures through successfully operating a wide range of their own services

and almost all of their Federal programs, including health services, housing, education, police and fire protection, tribal courts, natural resources management and protection, fisheries, administration, and economic development and employ over 1000 people in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent what is today the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and it is an honor to work closely with them to help improve their futures and the futures of all eastern Oregonians.

BIENNIAL BUDGETING AND APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2005

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the annual rush to complete action on budget, authorization and appropriations bills not only results in a poor budget process, but also reduces the amount of time available for careful oversight and management of existing Federal programs. During the 31-year history of the Budget Act, Congress has met the deadline for completion of a budget resolution only five times. Since 1953, Congress has been forced to enact continuing resolutions to fund government activities past the end of the fiscal year in every year but four (FY1953, FY1989, FY1995 and FY1997). And according to the Congressional Budget Office, Congress provided \$170 billion in fiscal year 2005 appropriations for 167 statutes whose authorizations had expired.

That is why I introduced the Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act of 2005, which streamlines the budget process and improves the fiscal management and oversight of government programs by instituting a biennial budget system. Under the bill, the President would submit a two-year budget and Congress would consider a two-year budget resolution and 11 two-year appropriations bills during the first session. The second session would be devoted to consideration of authorization bills, programmatic oversight of government agencies and emergency spending bills. Mr. Speaker, this is a proposal we've entertained in the past, and I believe it deserves another look.

By eliminating repetitive and time-consuming appropriations work, the Congress as a whole and even the appropriations subcommittees would be better able to focus on oversight. This would also contribute to more appropriate funding decisions in biennial appropriation bills and any necessary supplemental/recision legislation. As with oversight, biennial budgeting would allow more time for needed authorization legislation. In addition, the overwhelming appropriations workload every year has upset the intended balance in the role of authorizations and appropriations. Biennial budgeting would help restore the importance of the authorization process.

Preparing for annual appropriations is as much or more of a drain on time and resources for Federal agencies as it is for Congress. It takes nearly three years for the Administration and Congress to produce and implement one annual budget. As a result, a

great deal of time and manpower are diverted from managing existing programs, leading to delays in reform implementation and creating a slower and more bureaucratic government. Biennial budgeting would provide Federal agencies more time for program oversight, increasing agency efficiency and providing them with more stable and predictable budgets. In addition, Congress would be able to exercise better oversight over them.

As recently as World War II, all but four States had biennial budgeting. The growing dependence on annually appropriated big-government programs, however, helped move many to change to annual cycles. Although this trend has reversed in recent years (today, 21 States have biennial budgets), biennial budgeting at the Federal level would help States return to this commonsense process. Even if States retain annual cycles, they will benefit from more stable and predictable Federal funding.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act of 2005. It will provide a starting point for discussions on how to improve the budget process and foster improved governance for the American people.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' LACROSSE TEAM

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the St. Mary's High School girls' lacrosse team of Annapolis, Maryland in honor of its 2005 Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM) A1 Conference Championship.

This remarkable team, the Saints, culminated a season of phenomenal play by defeating Anne Arundel County rival Severn School in a tightly contested game by a score of 7 to 6 to bring home the championship for the first time in 9 years. This season these young ladies played some of the best high school lacrosse teams in the Nation.

In just her third year as Head Coach of the Saints, Sue Chittim is to be congratulated along with her assistant coaches, Megan Lewis and Steve Clarke, for their ability to motivate and inspire their players with a positive attitude to play unselfishly as a team. The success of the Saints' lacrosse program is a true credit to Coach Chittim's vision and ability as a coach. As the IAAM tournament began, Coach Chittim's mantra for her team was, "Don't tell me how rough the waters are . . . just bring in the ship."

The Saints 4 seniors, Kelly Gaudreau, Bri Gauthier, Mindy Jones, and Bridget Noon, played their final high school lacrosse game as true champions and undoubtedly all season long were role models for their underclass teammates.

The remaining players, Sarah Beckstead, Alex Bertrand, Christian Carr, Caroline Cochran, Laura Ford, Devon Kelly, Morgan Kelly, Alex Kuntz, Jessica Liberto, Stephanie Murtha, Erin O'Donovan, Allison Perkins, Jackie Proch, Kelly Reid, Mary Ruttum, Kim Schindel, Samantha Schrum, and Erika Welck, contributed immensely to the success of the Saints

season and all deserve recognition for their exceptional achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues join me in congratulating the St. Mary's High School girls' lacrosse team on its exceptional season and 2005 IAAM A1 Conference Championship.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MARINE LANCE CORPORAL TAYLOR B. PRAZYNSKI

#### HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Marine Lance Corporal Taylor B. Prazynski. As our country honors our military personnel, both past and present, this Memorial Day, I want to take this opportunity to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and security.

Lance Corporal Prazynski leaves behind a legacy of honor, service, and inspiration to his family, to his friends, and to men and women who never had a chance to know him. His family and friends remember him as a jovial and compassionate man who was committed to bringing freedom and democracy to the Iraqi people and security to the American people.

Lance Corporal Prazynski also leaves behind a legacy of compassion from his work with his handicapped classmates while attending Fairfield High School. His interest in becoming a special education teacher illustrates his strength of character, and based on his reputation for being hard-working and dedicated to accomplishing his goals, I have no doubt he would have been an effective teacher and mentor.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay my last respects to a young man who was so full of life; to a young man who had a full and bright future ahead of him. I pray Lance Corporal Prazynski's family and friends find peace in their hearts, knowing his country is grateful and humbled by his sacrifice. I thank our brave men and women in uniform for continuing with our mission in Iraq, which is the ultimate tribute to our fallen soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen.

Taylor, to you I offer my sincere gratitude and my solemn commitment to continue to support your friends, the members of your unit, and the men and women in Iraq who are continuing without you. Thank you for seeing a vision greater than yourself and for the strength of your commitment to our country. God bless you.

#### TRIBUTE TO CIVIL WAR VETERAN ELISHA JOHNS

#### HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Civil War Veteran Elisha Johns, who received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his courage and valor as a Corporal

during the Battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi. This Saturday, May 28th, the Porter Township Board and the folks of Union, Michigan will honor Mr. Johns during a ceremony at his gravesite in Plum Grove Cemetery.

Elisha enlisted with the Union Army on August 9th, 1862, with whom he served until his discharge on June 6, 1865. After his enlistment, his leadership and courage was recognized by his superiors as he was made Corporal and promoted to Sergeant soon thereafter. His true valor was demonstrated on May 22, 1863, the date he earned the Congressional Medal of Honor.

It was the beginning of the Battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi and there was a call for volunteers to bridge a dike that was essential for a Union victory. Corporal Johns was one of 150 men that felt called to duty and valiantly set out to construct the bridge. Before they succeeded in bridging the dike, two-thirds of Elisha's fellow soldiers were shot and unable to go on. However, Corporal Johns and his peers boldly continued, while under intense Confederate fire, only to find his supporting soldiers had retreated. As it was early in the day, and military support lacking, Elisha was forced to hide along the base of the dike until darkness fell, when he was able to successfully get back to the Union lines. Forty years after his brave act, Corporal Johns was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

As we come together as a Nation this Memorial Day, we honor the heroes of yesterday like Elisha Johns, who gave so much to our great Nation, and to honor those brave men and women of our armed forces who are on the front lines today, sacrificing so much in the name of freedom.

I commend all the folks of Union, Michigan, who are committed to preserving the history of our veterans, such as Corporal Johns, so generations to come will remember the sacrifices of their forefathers that played such a vital role in making our great Nation.

#### THE TRAGIC PASSING OF NEALE CHANEY SLATER

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, late last month—on April 25, 2005—the family and friends of Neale Chaney Slater, the community of Mechanicsville, and the State of Maryland suffered a devastating loss when this caring and accomplished young man was struck down just as he was preparing to enter the prime of his life.

While driving out to help a local farmer, Neale, 20 years old, was killed in a tragic two-vehicle accident on Route 5 in Hughesville.

Yet, in such a short period of time, Neale gave so much to so many others.

At the age of 16, Neale joined the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department, and had held the office of assistant secretary and treasurer.

Neale was a Firefighter II and certified emergency medical technician, and was recognized by his peers with the Mechanicsville Volunteer Fire Department as "Rookie of the Year" in 2001. He also was awarded Fire Prevention Awards in 2001 and 2002.

"He told me he was following the family tradition," said Willie Wilkerson, president of the department, noting that Neale's grandfather and uncle had also been members of the department. "For such a short life, he got a lot accomplished."

That, in fact, is an understatement.

Neale was a 2003 honors graduate of the Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy in Leonardstown, where he achieved the rank of Battalion Commander in his junior and senior years.

He also was awarded Midshipman of the Year in 2001, 2002, and 2003, and was also awarded the Military Excellence, Headmaster's and Loyalty Awards at graduation.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, this was an exceptional young man—a young man who envisioned a career in public service early on.

At the time of his passing, Neale was a Cadet in the Maryland State Police, which he joined in 2003. This coming fall, he was set to join the State Police Academy.

Without question, Neale embodied the best this country has to offer through his dedicated public service, his educational achievements, and the respect he had earned from all who knew him.

Neale was held in high regards by the community he served, and rightly so. Colonel Thomas E. Hutchins, Secretary of the Department of State Police, said that Neale was "a young man with a strong work ethic who was committed to doing his best in every mission he undertook."

Mr. Speaker, the passing of one's child, particularly one with so much to contribute to his community, his State and his Nation is as painful as it is incomprehensible.

Today, I want to extend my deepest sympathies to Neale's parents, Eleanor Fowler Slater and Austin Joseph Slater, Sr., as well as all of his family members and friends.

I realize that these words are small solace. But I hope the Slaters, in time, find some comfort in the fact that they raised a truly fine young man who will be sorely missed and never forgotten.

The Slaters have established the Neale Slater Memorial Fund in his honor at the Leonard Hall Junior Naval Academy for a graduating senior intending to enter law enforcement.

I know the recipients of this scholarship will always be inspired by the example set by Neale, and the extraordinarily positive impact he had on his community will be felt for generations to come.

#### TRIBUTE TO HEROES OF THE OREGON MOUNTAIN RIVER CHAPTER OF THE RED CROSS

#### HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the courageous men and women being honored on June 1, 2005 by the Oregon Mountain River Chapter of the Red Cross's inaugural Real Heroes ceremony in Bend, Oregon, which I will be honored to be part of. These men and women set themselves apart through selfless acts of heroism and kindness toward others. I would like to

share the stories that depict their unwavering commitment to their fellow citizens and their calm and collected action in the face of great challenge.

Mr. Speaker, Matthew Zedwick is one of the many courageous men and women who have served our country in Iraq as a member of the Oregon National Guard. On June 13, 2004, his quick action under pressure saved the life of his comrade, Sgt. Sean Davis. Sgt. Zedwick was driving a Humvee when two roadside bombs exploded near his convoy. Despite being wounded by shrapnel, Sgt. Zedwick dragged Truck Commander Sgt. Davis safely from a burning vehicle and then returned to the vehicle under heavy enemy fire in an attempt to retrieve the body of Spc. Eric McKinley, who had been killed in the blast. While he was unable to retrieve Spc. McKinley, he was able to retrieve a radio and call for help. His quick thinking and courage under fire saved his own life and the life of Sgt. Davis. For his actions, Sgt. Zedwick became the first Oregon National Guardsman since World War II to be awarded the Silver Star medal and a Purple Heart for his valor.

Jordan Bilyeu is another hero who endured the devastation of the Tsunami that struck the Indian Ocean in December of 2004. While vacationing in the Phi Phi Islands, off the shore of Thailand, Jordan was swept up in the water that unexpectedly came crashing toward the beachgoers. Jordan clung to a palm tree while riding out the worst of the Tsunami and eventually was swept into the third story of a nearby hotel. During this ordeal, Jordan was able to assist in the rescue of a woman who lost her legs who had also been pulled into that hotel room, and worked to assist others who had been injured in this tragic natural disaster.

Mr. Speaker, in Deschutes County we owe thanks to several heroes for their quick action at work. On September 13, 2003, Al Ewing's, Corky Metteer's, Tim Wiley's, and Adam Carpenter's emergency efforts saved the life of Stu Martinez when he lapsed out of consciousness. Stu's colleagues quickly ran to his rescue and performed CPR techniques until medical help could arrive. These employees at Wilderness Garbage in La Pine were prepared to react after taking critical life saving and CPR classes administered by the Oregon Mountain River Chapter of the Red Cross one month before.

Deschutes County District Attorney Mike Dugan is another hero who helped avert another tragic accident on the job and saved the life of a young boy in the Deschutes County Courtroom. When a young child started choking on a large piece of candy, District Attorney Dugan rushed to assist the child and used an abdominal thrust technique to dislodge the candy from his throat. The entire episode took only a few seconds, but it is an act that this young child will remember for the rest of his life.

Kathleen Krahmer is a hero whose day-to-day efforts impact the lives of many in her community. On May 23, 2005, Kathleen donated her 57th pint of blood, for an astonishing total of more than seven gallons of blood donated to the Red Cross. Not only is Kathleen a blood donor, but every winter she knits hats and donates them to local schools or to the Bethlehem Inn, a homeless shelter in Bend. This, Mr. Speaker, is just the beginning of her service to others. She is actively involved in the Sparrow Club, an organization

that helps critically ill children, and has helped collect money for the Tsunami Relief program. As a teacher she is an inspiration and exemplary example to her students and her fellow citizens and has shown that countless acts of kindness truly do make a significant difference.

Mr. Speaker, the next individual I'd like to honor demonstrates that you can be a hero at any age. Spencer Brennan has already made a significant impact on those around him at the age of 14 and I'm sure that his tradition of helping others will continue for many years. As a young child Spencer fell very ill, but he battled back to overcome his illness and never gave up during his most difficult challenges. Now, he works for the benefit of other children as a 'volunteer for the Sparrow Club. For the last two years, Spencer has worked to raise money for the Sparrow Club and to support other children who face medical crisis. For his service, he was awarded the prestigious "Dameon Award" for his compassion, courage, character and conscience.

The next hero I would like to highlight, Kim Meeder, is an individual who has worked very hard to make a difference in the life of troubled teens, abused kids and adults across Oregon and our nation. The work being done by Kim and her husband Troy at the Crystal Peaks Youth Ranch is tremendous. Kim has helped pair abused and neglected horses with troubled individuals seeking solitude and comfort. The ranch gives these individuals a place to rekindle their spirits and recover from the problems of their past.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by talking about a collaborative effort in central Oregon that provides medical coverage for those without coverage. Since opening just over a year ago, the Volunteers in Medicine Clinic has completed approximately 5,000 free examinations in Deschutes County. Three of these volunteers have gone above and beyond the call of duty. Dr. Tom McGranahan, a retired anesthesiologist, has worked over 600 hours assisting doctors and training others in the use of new electronic medical records while serving as the clinic's resident computer expert. Cindy Cocanower, an area pharmacist, has utilized her expertise so the organization can provide medications at little or no cost to VIM patients. She has donated over 200 hours of her time and expertise and spent countless hours working on similar endeavors outside the clinic. Sharon Lichti, a retired college professor, has been the lead volunteer charged with training dozens of new volunteers since the opening of the clinic. The contributions of these individuals have provided medical coverage for many uninsured individuals throughout central Oregonian, and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, the individuals being honored on June 1 demonstrate that each of us can be a hero in our community and we are grateful for all that they've done and continue to do.

#### CELEBRATING HAL AND TINA SMITH FOR 65 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hal and Tina Smith for the dedica-

tion they have shown to each other over their 65 years of marriage.

On June 1, 1940, Hal Smith and Tina Ball were married. Through 3 children, 8 grandchildren and 4 (soon to be five) great-grandchildren, they have been a shining example of unconditional love and mutual respect for each other and those they come to meet.

This dedication to, and respect for, each other has been the key to a successful marriage for all these years. During their life together, they have raised a beautiful family—a family strengthened by the strong morals and humanistic values they embodied for their children.

They have lived their lives free from regret and have persevered and overcome any trial that has come their way. Hal and Tina have always held family to be paramount and have engendered this legacy of love in their children.

Aside from the strong family values that they have demonstrated, they also have a love of travel, and they have always emphasized the importance of learning and education in their family, which echoes their strong belief that they must leave this world a better place than they found it. Tina expressed this through her work with museums; Hal through his political career.

Mr. Speaker, these 2 individuals have been like a second set of parents to my wife, Laurie and I. They are a very important part of our lives. Their great influence has been a constant in our lives as they have loved and supported us over the years and throughout my political career. We are proud to be among the privileged group they call their friends. Their commitment to each other and to their community is deserving of recognition and honor, so it is a pleasure for me today to salute this marvelous couple. I encourage all of my colleagues to salute such wonderful examples of family values, like Hal and Tina Smith.

#### DISCUSSING THE PERILS OF CAFTA WITH LEGISLATORS FROM CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I welcomed legislators from Central American countries to discuss the perils of CAFTA. I submit my opening remarks for the RECORD.

Thank you all for coming to this important briefing on how the Dominican-Republic Central American Free Trade Agreement was passed in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. I would like to thank Congressman Becerra for hosting this briefing with me, and of course, the Central American legislators for traveling up here to share their experiences with us.

There are innumerable reasons to oppose CAFTA, in the United States and in Central America. Governments will have little to no control over the investments of foreign companies, and foreign investors will not have to comply with International Labor Organization standards when they invest in Central American business ventures. Workers' rights will be undermined, especially for women workers, farmers and maquila workers. The current labor rights abuses prevalent in

some Central American countries will run rampant under CAFTA's weak labor provisions. Countries will enjoy greater tariff benefits for goods made by workers whose rights have been denied.

Family farms in Central America will fall victim to CAFTA, which will threaten locally grown produce and undermine food security for Central Americans. Basic public goods and services, such as education, health care and water will become privatized, as governments will lose the flexibility to subsidize these services. Expensive brand-name drugs will have expanded patents, and inexpensive generic medicines will have greater restrictions. Poor people will not have access to life-saving pharmaceuticals.

Yet these concerns could not be fully considered or debated by lawmakers in Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador. CAFTA was brought up suddenly, in the wee hours of the morning, with no public notice, and many lawmakers did not get the chance to investigate what they were voting on. Is this how far-reaching legal reform bills should be considered? Of course not. And the real story of how CAFTA was pushed through the legislatures of Central American countries will undercut any legitimacy its ratification may have.

Please join me in welcoming the lawmakers who opposed CAFTA in their respective legislative assemblies when it was considered, and who have traveled here to continue to oppose CAFTA. Let me introduce: Diputada Doris Gutierrez, from Honduras; Diputado Victor Manuel Sales, from Guatemala; Diputado Hugo Martinez, from El Salvador; and Diputado Salvador Arias, from El Salvador.

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#### MEMORIAL DAY AND HONORING THE SACRIFICE OF AMERICA'S VETERANS

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##### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, this Memorial Day we will once again mark a day of remembrance for those who have died while serving our Nation. Memorial Day is a single day of national awareness and reverence, honoring those Americans who died while defending our Nation and its values. While we should remember their sacrifice every day, a special honor is reserved for Memorial Day.

More than a million American service members died in the wars and conflicts this Nation fought since the first colonial minutemen took up arms in 1775 to fight for independence. Each soldier who died during those many battles was a loved one cherished by family and friends. Each was a loss to the community and the Nation.

While this Nation can never fully repay those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, I believe the United States must continue to do more to honor our brave soldiers, veterans and our military families. Their sacrifices are the foundation of our Nation's freedom.

During my years in Congress, I have consistently given high priority to the interests of our country's veterans. I feel strongly that protecting veterans' rights and benefits is the least we can do for those who have devoted

years of their lives in service to our Nation. Only by providing the best possible resources and facilities and fully compensating veterans for disabilities, can we repay the dedication of service personnel who sacrificed for their country.

One area in which adequate funding is absolutely necessary for veterans is health care. The lack of sufficient resources in our VA hospitals has reduced the ability of medical professionals to provide quality care. Our budget should be a reflection of our national priorities and yet this year the House Leadership cut veterans healthcare by \$13.5 billion.

It is critical that we fulfill our moral obligation to honor our Nation's veterans with the health, education and retirement benefits they have earned through their service. I have joined my colleagues in introducing a new GI bill, endorsed by the American Legion and the Disabled American Veterans, to improve benefits for men and women in uniform today and provide long overdue benefits for the veterans and military retirees who have already served. It will help members of the National Guard and Reserve, as their service in Iraq and Afghanistan has been above the call of duty, and will improve veterans' health care by increasing resources, bolstering mental health care for returning soldiers and blocking prescription drug co-payment increases.

So, on this Memorial Day, let us never forget that we in this country owe a great debt of gratitude to those who sacrificed their lives so that we could live free. We can start to pay that debt by remembering what they did and what they stood for, and by promoting policies that honor their service and reflect the values of our grateful Nation.

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#### HONORING THE LIFE OF ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MARLIN T. ROCKHOLD

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##### HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and legacy of Army Private First Class Marlin T. Rockhold. As our country honors our military personnel, both past and present, this Memorial Day, I want to take this opportunity to remember those who have sacrificed their lives for our freedom and security.

Private First Class Rockhold leaves behind the most important legacy any man can leave: a strong and healthy family who knows he loved them with all his heart. His love and commitment to his wife Davonna, and his desire to adopt and nurture their daughter Therashia is the best testament to his character and to his heart.

Private First Class Rockhold's joy for life and his commitment to the men and women he served with are remembered by his family, his friends, and his fellow soldiers. He used his incredible sense of humor and memorable smile to ease the worries, fears, and disappointments of those around him. His positive attitude will remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I pay my last respects to a young man who was so full of life; to a young man who had a full and bright future ahead of him. I pray Army Private First Class Rockhold's family and friends find peace in their hearts, knowing his country is grateful and humbled by his sacrifice. I thank our brave men and women in uniform for continuing with our mission in Iraq, which is the ultimate tribute to our fallen soldiers, Marines, sailors, and airmen.

Marlin, to you I offer my sincere gratitude and my solemn commitment to continue to support your friends, the members of your unit, and the men and women in Iraq who are continuing without you. Thank you for seeing a vision greater than yourself and for the strength of your commitment to our country. God bless you.

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#### WEST PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL TAKES TOP HONORS IN TECHNOLOGY COMPETITION

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##### CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the West Philadelphia High School for taking top honors in the Technology Competition at the National 2005 Tour de Sol.

The National 2005 Tour de Sol, a nationwide competition, allows students and entrepreneurs to showcase their efforts to design vehicles that approach zero carbon emissions and use renewable fuels. The Tour de Sol highlights the largest innovations in alternative-energy technology and advanced fuel vehicles, showcasing the future of the clean-energy and transportation industry. The cars are put through rigorous tests to assess emissions, fuel economy, and other technical standards.

The Tour de Sol provides a key platform for vehicle manufacturers, students, and entrepreneurs to demonstrate future designs and current products that aim to reduce oil and carbon emissions to zero. This year, over a dozen teams from all over the United States and Canada participated in the Tour de Sol Championship, which began in 1989. The competition aims to inspire students and businesses to design, build, showcase, and use concept vehicles that push the envelope and work toward the ultimate goal of the event.

The winner of the coveted "Greenest Vehicle" was awarded to one of the only high school teams to enter the competition, West Philadelphia High School, for their electric car called The Saturn. The team beat university and private teams from around the country for developing a vehicle that demonstrates high energy efficiency. The Saturn ran the equivalent of 280 miles per gallon of gasoline, with a greenhouse gas reduction of nearly 80 percent.

I salute the students, faculty and team sponsors who worked tirelessly over the past two years to construct a hybrid vehicle that uses biodiesel fuel instead of gas to create a cleaner environment. I applaud your efforts and congratulate you on a winning design that makes all Philadelphians proud.

RENEWAL OF IMPORT SANCTIONS  
ON BURMA**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, fifteen years ago tomorrow, the political party of Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi won a historic victory in elections called by the Burmese ruling junta to legitimize their brutal rule. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy won 82% of the vote, but the Burmese government refused to convene the new parliament and has since engaged in a campaign of terror and intimidation of the political opposition.

Last year, the House of Representatives voted 372-2 to renew the import sanctions against Burma contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003. H.J. Res. 97 was signed into law on July 7, 2004.

Import sanctions on Burma must be renewed by July 2005, or Burmese products will flow once again to the United States. For that reason, I join today with Ways and Means Committee Chairman BILL THOMAS, Representative PETER KING, and 40 other Members of Congress in introducing legislation to again renew import sanctions on Burma.

Unfortunately, the case for a tough approach toward Burma, including a comprehensive import ban, is even stronger today than last July. Just a few short weeks ago, the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva overwhelmingly approved a resolution on Burma, attacking what it called "the systematic ongoing violation of human rights" by the ruling junta. In its annual Human Rights Report, the State Department charged that the Burmese Government has subjected its citizens to torture, arbitrary arrest, forced and child labor, and the use of rape as a weapon of war.

Meanwhile, unless the brutal ruling junta in Rangoon changes its stripes over the next several weeks, Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi will celebrate her 60th birthday under continued house arrest, prevented from speaking directly to the Burmese people who support her battle for democracy and human rights.

The tough approach maintained by the United States towards Burma, including import sanctions, may also be encouraging other nations to reconsider their lenient views to the Rangoon regime. Key member nations of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), for the first time, have strongly criticized Burma as it prepares to assume the rotating chairmanship of the 10-member group in 2006. Last November, the European Union itself strengthened its Burma policy in response to ongoing human rights violations. In both instances, the strong stand of the United States has stiffened backbones and increased the prospects that a multilateral sanctions regime against Burma is possible.

The import sanctions renewal legislation is also completely consistent with the tough line towards Burma taken by both Democratic and Republican Administrations. On May 17th, President George W. Bush extended the Executive Order first imposed in 1997 which prohibits new U.S. investment in Burma. Just three days ago, the State Department told Congress that U.S. sanctions against Burma "represent a clear and powerful expression of

American opposition to the developments in Burma" and are "a key component of our policy in bringing democracy to Burma."

Congress must act decisively by the end of July to renew import sanctions against Burma and send a strong signal of support for the restoration of democracy and human rights in that impoverished nation. I would encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this important piece of legislation.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN STROKE  
MONTH**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I request that you join me today in recognizing May as American Stroke Month.

In doing so, we are presented with an opportunity to educate one another about the shattering effects of stroke that leave no American community unscathed.

Stroke, the third leading cause of death in our nation, is caused by an interruption of blood flow to the brain from a blood clot or ruptured blood vessel. Every 45 seconds someone in America suffers a stroke, and every 3 minutes someone dies from one. Over 700,000 Americans of all ages, ethnicities, and gender suffer new or recurring strokes each year, taking the lives of more than 160,000 people.

For those who survive an attack, the consequences of a stroke can be emotionally and physically devastating, often leaving victims with speech problems, impaired thinking, and paralysis. Over half of all stroke survivors must live with a disability. With 4.8 million stroke survivors, stroke is the leading cause of serious, long-term disability in the United States.

Many of us possess an image of stroke as a catastrophic, uncontrollable event that can be neither prevented nor treated. However, given adequate resources and education, nearly 80 percent of all strokes can be prevented, and many others can be effectively treated.

High blood pressure, elevated cholesterol levels, smoking, a lack of physical activity and obesity have all been linked to increased susceptibility to stroke. Diabetes increases the risk of stroke by a factor of three. By controlling our medical risks with a healthy lifestyle and regular medical care, particularly among African Americans who are hardest hit by cardiovascular disease and diabetes, we can significantly decrease our chances of suffering a stroke.

Surviving a stroke with little or no disability is possible. Understanding the symptoms of a stroke, and taking immediate emergency action by calling 9-1-1, is crucial to a chance for full recovery. Rapid administration of clot-dissolving drugs, if delivered within the first 3 hours of the onset of stroke symptoms, can greatly improve a patient's chances for recovery.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, a majority of Americans are not aware of their risk for a stroke, nor are they aware of the signs and symptoms of an impending stroke. Hospitals and emergency medical services are not orga-

nized to maximize the benefits of available treatments. The average time between the onset of symptoms and medical treatment is far too long, averaging an astounding 13 hours. Fewer than 5 percent of stroke patients receive potentially lifesaving clot-dissolving medication. Many stroke patients do not receive preventive care, such as cholesterol screening and smoking cessation counseling, before leaving the hospital.

What can we do to help? We can start by encouraging our family, friends and fellow citizens to simply ask their doctors, "Am I at risk for a stroke?" and "What do I do if I have a stroke?" Education is power, and it can preserve crucial moments that mean the difference between death or a life of disability, and a healthy future.

We can also support legislation like the STOP Stroke Act, H.R. 898, a bill sponsored by my good friends Representatives LOIS CAPPS and CHARLES PICKERING of which I am proud to be a cosponsor. This bill would authorize initiatives to help patients with symptoms of stroke receive timely and thorough care, and would establish campaigns to raise public awareness of stroke prevention and treatment. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this critical legislation.

Mr. Speaker, improving systems of stroke care and increasing awareness and education of stroke treatment and prevention will help ensure that all stroke patients have access to the best available, timely treatment. On behalf of the millions of Americans currently at risk or living with the consequences of stroke, I urge us to do everything in our power to help save lives and educate the public about this devastating disease.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 25, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1815) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes

MS. DeLAURO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this legislation. I am especially pleased that the amendment I will offer later today has been accepted. I will support this bill because it contains several important provisions that are good for our troops, good for our national security, and good for Connecticut's economy.

Every Member of this body understands our troops represent the very best of America. The bill authorizes additional funding for equipment so desperately needed by troops serving in Iraq and those fighting the war on terror in Afghanistan and elsewhere—up-armored Humvees, tactical wheeled vehicle recapitalization and modernization programs, night vision devices and improvised explosive device (IED) jammers. The bill also provides our troops with a 3.1 percent pay raise for members of the armed forces and increases bonuses for active duty enlistments, reserve enlistments and active duty re-enlistments. Each

of these measures is necessary to stem the decline in recruiting and retention among our Armed Forces.

This legislation also makes good on our obligations to provide for the families of those who make the ultimate sacrifice for their country. It increases the death gratuity to \$100,000, allows dependents of deceased servicemembers to continue receiving housing benefits for one year, and expands travel authorizations for families of hospitalized servicemembers. This is the right thing to do, and I strongly support these provisions.

The bill also contains an important provision requested by myself and several of my colleagues regarding the Marine One helicopter program. It ensures that the Navy will not procure the helicopter until it can certify that its design is essentially complete. In doing so, this provision ensures this program does not waste taxpayer dollars in the rush to field the President's helicopter.

Unfortunately, there are other provisions in this bill that I believe are not in the best interests of the American people or our national security.

First, over the objections of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, it restricts the role of women in combat. Congress ought to charge the military with the responsibility to move people into jobs and positions based on merit. But excluding women from combat effectively creates two classes of servicemember, which is both bad for morale and may ultimately limit the ability of women to receive promotions in the future. Regrettably, the military already suffers from a case of not having enough women in senior positions, and this bill threatens to make that problem worse, not better.

And this bill misses two real opportunities to make a tangible difference in the lives of the men and women of our Armed Services and their families. Firstly, it does nothing to expand the availability of health care to members of the Reserves and their families, even though there are more than 100,000 Reservists and National Guardsmen currently on the front lines of Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world.

And incredibly, this bill does nothing about the military families tax and the disabled veterans tax. At a time when Congress has repealed the tax on inherited wealth—the estate tax—it is unconscionable that we would continue to tax those who have become disabled in service to their country and the survivors benefits of those killed in combat. To my mind, that is the real “death tax,” Mr. Speaker—taxing the families of those whose loved ones gave their lives and their livelihoods to this great country of ours. They deserve better.

Of course, the alternative to the bill is delay. And we cannot afford to put off the much-deserved pay raise for our troops in this bill or the purchase of new equipment that they so desperately need. Because we have an obligation to act now, I support the bill. But it is my hope that Congress will address these important issues—and soon.

## RECOGNIZING 57TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. JERROLD NADLER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2005*

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 57th Anniversary of Israel's Independence Day.

Having long been the victims of discrimination and persecution, and fresh from the unimaginable horror of the Holocaust, the Jewish people of the world were successful in establishing an independent state in May of 1948. Thanks to their heroic efforts, Israel was born as a pluralistic democracy that promotes the values of liberty for all of its citizens. Fifty-seven years later, Israel continues to shine as a beacon of hope in a region too often blighted by oppressive and dictatorial regimes.

Despite Israel's desire for a peaceable existence, its citizens have been the target of violence since the state's inception. These attacks have come from neighboring states, resulting in multiple wars, and from the coordinated efforts of terrorists. Innocent Israeli's have been targeted while going about their daily lives, often during activities as routine as boarding a bus or sitting in an outdoor café.

Yet, despite the recurring waves of terror, the Israeli people have managed not just to maintain their independence, but also to thrive as a society. Israelis find themselves at the leading edge of innovation in the scientific and academic fields. The industrious Israeli people transformed an arid landscape into a model green space dotted with cities rich in diversity and culture. This resilience and vibrancy is a credit to Israel's open system of government, a system that respects and promotes civil rights, free expression, and genuine democratic elections.

I am hopeful that a lasting peace in this troubled region can be reached. However, this cannot come at the expense of Israel's security. I will continue to demand that the Palestinian Authority renounce, immediately and completely, all forms of terrorism.

On this day of independence, Yom Ha'Atzmaut, the United States stands proudly with Israel and remembers the sacrifices made by her founders. In addition, we honor the soldiers and ordinary citizens who have died in defense of freedom. The U.S. takes great pride in our alliance with Israel, and we find great strength in our moral and philosophical ties, as well as our economic and military partnerships. We will continue to act jointly with Israel to preserve her status as a secure Jewish state and a model of democracy for the whole of the Middle East.

I urge my colleagues to support this concurrent resolution.

## PROVIDING FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PUBLIC LAND IN CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA, FOR USE AS A HELIPORT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 23, 2005*

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 849 would transfer certain land, currently within the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, to Clark County, Nevada. The land is to be used as a heliport for commercial helicopter air tours.

The transfer would only take place if certain conditions on the use of the heliport are met by Clark County.

The first condition is that the County must impose and collect a per passenger “conservation fee” of \$3.00 for each passenger of a helicopter tour that passes over any portion of the Conservation Area.

The second condition requires the County to ensure that any helicopter tour originating or concluding at the heliport traveling over the Conservation Area fly on a certain flight path and at a specified altitude except for safety reasons.

For purposes of clarity, the conditions set forth in H.R. 849 are on the transfer of the land and should the County fail to fulfill the conditions; the land would either not be transferred or if already transferred would revert back to the United States.

Let us look at each of the conditions on the transfer of the land to Clark County.

The first condition, that the County impose and collect a per passenger fee, is problematic. Elsewhere in law, States or political subdivisions of States are prohibited from levying or collecting a “tax, fee, or charge . . . exclusively upon any business located a commercial service airport [which includes heliports] . . . other than a tax, fee, or charge wholly utilized for airport or aeronautical purposes.”

Therefore, it seems that the County would be unable to fulfill the first condition of the land transfer as the fee would be imposed upon and collected from helicopter tour passengers for the management of cultural, wildlife and wilderness resources on public land in Nevada.

The second condition is also problematic. Again, this condition would require the County to ensure that certain flight paths and minimum flight altitudes are utilized by the helicopter tours.

It should be emphasized that this bill does not direct Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) action with regard to airspace management and control.

In fact, should the FAA determine that the flight path and minimum altitude requirements set forth in the bill are unsafe or otherwise operationally unwise, the County would have failed to meet a condition of the land transfer and the land would revert back to the United States.

To make this perfectly clear, only the FAA has the authority to manage and control the National Airspace. State, regional, county and other local government entities, not to mention other Federal departments and agencies, have no authority in this regard.

Thus, the second condition on the transfer of land to Clark County is clearly outside of the County's authority and control.



Therefore, given that Clark County may very well be unable to fulfill either of the conditions of the land transfer; it appears that H.R. 849 is legislating a nullity.

I thank my colleagues for the opportunity to be heard on H.R. 849 and to clarify the legislative record with regard to this bill and how it should be interpreted relating to the FAA and airspace management and control.

RECOGNIZING THE FIRST YEAR OF  
CHEN SHUI-BIAN'S PRESIDENCY  
OF TAIWAN

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, for the people of Taiwan this month marks the close of the first year of President Chen Shui-Bian's second term in office.

President Chen's leadership has received praise around the world because he is actively seeking a dialogue with China that will pro-

mote peace and stability in cross-strait relations. He has supported Taiwan's opposition leaders' visit to China and indicated that he would welcome feedback on safeguarding the democracy and sovereignty of Taiwan.

Taiwan and the United States share the values of freedom, human rights, and democracy and work together politically and economically. Currently the United States is Taiwan's largest trading partner, with more than 270 direct flights between the United States and Taiwan every week. There are more than 28,000 Taiwanese students currently studying in the United States. We hope these trends will continue under the leadership of President Chen.

Taiwan is currently seeking to be a World Health Assembly observer this year. Its 23 million people need access to the services provided by the World Health Organization (WHO). Excluding Taiwan from the WHO both jeopardizes the health of the Taiwanese people and keeps the rest of the world from benefiting from the health care resources and expertise Taiwan has to share.

I applaud the Administration and Congress in its support of Taiwan's bid to become a

World Health Assembly observer and wish President Chen and the people of Taiwan success this year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 26, 2005*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, during an amendment vote on H.R. 1817, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, rollcall Vote 184, Representative HOOLEY's Amendment, an amendment numbered 13 printed in part B of House Report 109-84 to prohibit any of the money in the DHS authorization bill to come from an increase in airline ticket taxes I inadvertently voted "no" when I meant to vote "yes." I would like to add this statement to the RECORD to reflect this.